



# Arlington Heights garden club

Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

September 2015

*Growing Together*

*Carol Elliott, Editor*

## Great Gardens from Harvest to Holiday

Speaker: Jackie Riffice of  
The Prairie Godmothers

Monday, September 28  
Social 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Put your garden to bed and use the cool season to improve your soil, clean your tools, expand garden spaces and nurture your plants through the long, cool season. Add harvest and holiday color to your landscape using natural wonders and repurposed odds and ends. Seasonal vignettes can be welcoming with easy ideas from Prairie Godmothers.

In a busy Chicago train station, Jackie Riffice found her purpose in Prairie Godmothers. She challenged herself to share the gift of nature by passing out native flowers to the commuters. Their gratitude prompted her to create a company aimed at educating and inspiring others to embrace nature and gardening. Through Prairie Godmothers, she aims to cultivate in others a sense of shared responsibility as caretakers of our earth, while helping them discover the joy in nurturing native plants.

## Greetings from Our President

The summer BBQ at the Museum was a great way to cap off a successful summer and kick off the upcoming Garden Club year. I'd like to thank Pete Landwehr and Sharon Sieg for opening their gardens for our summer meetings. Thanks again to our Garden Walk hosts Carole & John Monaco, Nancy Ruth, Nate Sather, Andrew & Wendy Schnepf, and David & Kerstin Schultz. I want to thank the Garden Walk Planning Committee and all the club member volunteers who helped make our major fundraiser a success. I am pleased to report that we had 263 attendees and netted \$3538.05 to go towards funding our scholarship, civics projects, and club activities. Please mark your calendars for next year's walk which will be June 12th!

A big thanks to Val Solaski and the rest of her program committee of Mary Jo Gotham, Bev Krams. and Sharon Sieg for lining up interesting topics and speakers for the upcoming year. Details of the dates and speakers will be featured on the our web site which is now a shortened web address of [ahgardenclub.com](http://ahgardenclub.com). Remember that the Garden Club meetings will be the 4th Monday of the month at Village Hall from September - May.

A special welcome to our new members and thanks to all of our returning members. We will be seeking volunteers to help us with various committees and projects for the club so please be ready to participate and take the opportunity to get to know your fellow club members better.

Kathy Hendricksen

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**  
**Kathy Hendricksen**

**Vice President**  
**Donna Soens**

**Secretary**  
**Bev Krams**

**Treasurer**  
**Nancy Asquini-Dean**

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

**Artistic**  
**Barb Franks**

**Civics**  
**Kathy Wolan**

**Conservation**  
**Jim Spannagel**

**Horticulture**  
**Pete Landwehr**

**Membership**  
**Donna Soens**

**Program**  
**Val Solaski**

**Publicity**  
**Helen Dawley**

**Social**  
**Aggie Prochaska**

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

**Newsletter**  
**Carol Elliott**

**Scholarship and Website**  
**Mike Dennehey**

## September Hostesses

A reminder and thank you from Aggie Prochaska, Social Chair, to those bringing treats to our September meeting.

John and Pat Garrity  
Benita Hendrich  
Aggie Prochaska

## Our Scholarship Recipient

Kelly Kowal was awarded the \$1,500 AHGC Scholarship for this year. She was unable to make the July meeting because she had a summer job with DuPont in Wisconsin. Her mother, Laura Kowal, attended the meeting to thank the club and explain how Kelly is using the money to further her studies. Laura is pictured here with our Civics Chair Kathy Wolan.

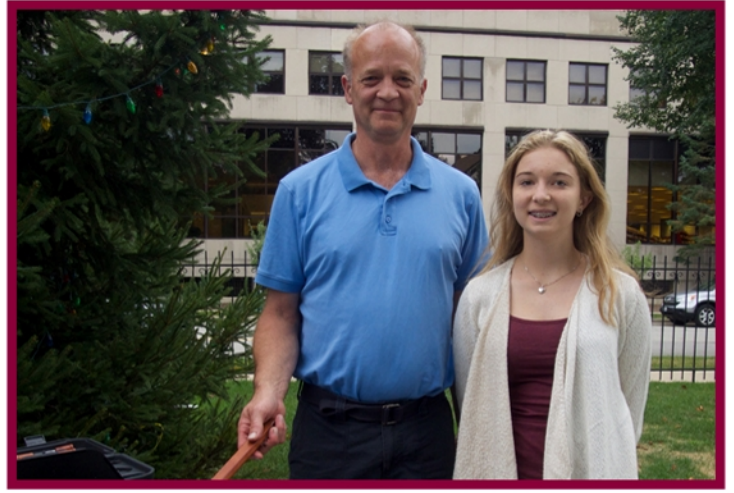


*From My Bed To Yours*  
Making gardening **fun** and **affordable**

## Saturday October 3rd

is our Annual Fall Plant Exchange. 10-10:30am at the AH Historical Museum Parking Lot. Start potting up your extra perennials for exchange so they have a chance to 'recover' from digging them out of the ground. Great chance to get your fellow gardeners' surplus perennials! See you there!!

# Pictures from the August Picnic



## From Our Horticulture Team

### GOT MILK?

Yes, milk! That summer fungus, otherwise known as POWDERY MILDREW is beginning to show its powdery white markings and the newest war on powdery mildew is MILK!!

*Sphaerotheca fulginea* and *Erysiphe cichoracearum* are the fungi responsible for the white powdery markings on your cucumbers, pumpkins, melons, squash and other vegetables. In addition to trees and shrubs, your flowers are not spared as it can be found on monarda and zinnia.

The pathogen seems to be a problem from July to early September when the days are hot and dry and the nights are cool with a high humidity level. It can develop in just three days with these types of conditions. The fungus is typically introduced by spores that are spread by windblown rain from warmer climates, where it overwinters. It can also come in on the feet of insects and birds. So, even the cleanest of gardens can be affected.

Powdery Mildew is host specific so just because it is on one plant does not necessarily mean it will make its way to other plants in your garden. There are however many different species of powdery mildew and the symptoms all look alike! When the species finds a host plant it will send its root like structures into the cells on a leaf surface. It stays taking nutrition from the leaf while developing a threadlike structure over the surface. This cripples the ability of the plant to conduct photosynthesis by blocking out the light and stopping the leaf's gas exchange system.

What's a gardener to do?

- " Clip out leaves that show early spotting.
- " Look for disease resistant varieties of plants.
- " Provide air circulation around plants. Don't crowd them out.
- " Use slow release fertilizer which makes the plant less susceptible as new growth is more vulnerable.
- " AND try the 40% milk/60% water spray, which has been shown to be as effective as chemical fungicides. Scientists think the proteins in the milk interact with sun to create a brief antiseptic effect BUT must be used preventively, applied on sunny days and repeated every 10 days or so.

The symptoms of powdery mildew usually look worse than the actual damage and it is rarely fatal.

Bev Krams Master Gardener University of Illinois Extension  
Member Horticulture Committee

<http://extension.illinois.edu/vegproblems/powderymildew.cfm>  
[www.growingagreenerworld.com](http://www.growingagreenerworld.com)  
<http://www.growveg.com/growblogpost.aspx?id=242>

If you have any questions about the care of your garden, call the University of Illinois Extension office at Friendship Park Conservatory in Mount Prospect Ph. 847-298-3502. The Master Gardeners who volunteer at FPC can help answer your gardening questions.



## GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - FALL 2015

Sept. 10 - "How-To Care for Topiaries" - Our GCI 'Welcome Back Meeting' - Karen Thompson of 'Toparies' will give us step-by-step instructions on how to make and care for topiaries - our Club meeting at 11:00AM at Frisbie Senior Center - in Des Plaines.

Sept. 12 - FRED2015 - A garden tour and seminars presented by the Riverside Education and Design Program. Along with the FRED, Geoffrey Baer of WTTW TV will offer a sneak peek of the upcoming PBS film featuring Riverside in "Ten Towns that Changed America. For more information, see their website: <http://www.fredofriverside.org/>

Sept. 12 - "Flowers & Foliage for Fall" at Knupper's Nursery, Palatine.

Sept. 12 - "79th Annual First Czechoslovak Garden Club of America Flower and Garden Show" - in Berwyn.

Sept. 12-13 - "Illinois Gourd Society Show and Sale" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

Sept. 13 - "The Garden Conservancy Open Days" - various locations in Chicago's north shore. See [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org) for details

Sept. 15-19 - "National Garden Clubs Fall Board Meeting" - in St. Louis, Mo.

Sept. 18-20 - "45th Annual Milwaukee Bonsai Society Exhibit" - at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners, Wisc.

Sept. 19-20 - "Midwest Regional Dahlia Society Show" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

Sept. 20 - "Motoring at the Museum" - car show at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum.

Sept. 24 - "District IX GCI Leadership Conference" - at Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines.

Sept. 25-27 - "Chicagoland Orchid Fest" - at various locations in the Chicago area.

Sept. 26 & Oct. 1 - "Fun with Spring Blooming Bulbs" - at Knupper's Nursery, Palatine.

Sept. 26 thru Nov. 8 - "Clueless" - a fall mum show - at Mitchell Park Conservatory "The Domes" in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Oct. 2-4 - "Fall Bulb Festival" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

Oct. 3 - "Fall Lawn Care" - at Knupper's Nursery, Palatine.

## Monarch Population Status - by Chip Taylor

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The following report was sent out in early August.

The number of reports of sightings has increased over the last few weeks and there have been reports of eggs - lots of eggs - mostly in the regions previously identified as likely to have a good migration (Dakotas to Michigan). The number of eggs found and the distribution of these finds now leads me to suspect that the migration through the upper Midwest will be better than any migration seen since 2011. This is good news since the tagging, isotope and observational data suggest that more than 90% of the monarchs reaching Mexico originate in this region. You may recall that temperatures during the breeding seasons of 2012 and 2013 were less than ideal, resulting in population declines each year. Last year the conditions were more favorable and I predicted in May that the population would increase. It did, though not by the amount I expected.

I'm encouraged by the egg data. As I've mentioned in previous "Monarch Population Status" updates (see our blog for these), the size of the migration is strongly influenced by the number of eggs laid between 20 July and 7 August. Most of the butterflies that result from these eggs become non-reproductive and join the migration from late August through early October as it moves progressively southward starting about the 10th of August at 50N (Winnipeg). The 45-day forecast is also encouraging since it suggests that temperatures will be favorable for the development of the migratory generation. If this forecast is more accurate than the one I used to make my predictions in early May - and conditions during the migration are storm-free - the number of monarchs at the overwintering sites could occupy an area of 1.8 - 2.3 hectares. This would be a substantial improvement given that the total last year was 1.13 hectares and that of the previous year was 0.67 hectares. More would be better of course, since the predicted El Niño could take a toll on the population during the latter part of the coming winter.

It will be a battle but we need to get the overwintering numbers up to at least 4 hectares in the coming years to be assured that sufficient numbers survive in the event of catastrophic winter storms such as those occurring in January 2002 and January/February 2004. To reach the 4-hectare goal (or the 6-hectare objective of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) will require a massive effort to restore milkweeds in the milkweed/monarch corridor that extends from Texas through Minnesota. The weather during the breeding seasons will need to be favorable as well.

### PLANT MILKWEED!

For more information, see Monarch Watch  
For a more detailed discussion of the current monarch population status please visit <http://monarchwatch.org/blog/>

