



Arlington Heights garden club

Celebrating our 65th Anniversary

May 2020

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

**Please note: the May
Garden Club meeting has
been CANCELLED.**

**We hope everyone is staying safe
and well.**

(Please Read This First) Greetings from Our President

In these unusual times, I have two requests of our members that I normally would make in person and in front of you at our monthly gatherings. The first, is that you please send your membership renewal check made out to "Arlington Hts Garden Club" to Renie Norkiewicz at 110 N. Kaspar Ave, Arlington Hts, IL 60005. With our main fund raisers being cancelled this year, your dues dollars are very important for the vitality of our club. **Please, ASAP!**

Secondly, I urge you to take a few minutes to review the suggested Bylaws revisions (found attached to the email that contains this Newsletter), and our slate of officers for the Board of Directors (found on the second page of this Newsletter), and then vote "Yes" or "No" on each. Please email Shelley Plischke at tplischke@comcast.net, and tell her, 1) I vote "Yes" (or "No") on the Bylaws revision, and 2) I vote "Yes" (or "No") on the slate of candidates. Both votes should be in one email. If anyone is concerned about this way of voting, the Garden Clubs of Illinois, our parent organization did exactly this type of voting last month when their Annual Convention had to be cancelled. All votes must be to Shelley by the end of the day on May 25th. Thanks so much for doing this. Perhaps, you can consider this your first mail-in vote of the campaign season!

We hope our members understand and will be supportive when we resume our regular schedule again. In the meantime, enjoy working your gardens, lawns, patio plants and window boxes!

Jim Spannagel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Jim Spannagel

Secretary
Nancy Asquini-Dean

Treasurer
Pete Landwehr

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Artistic
Barb Franks

Civics
Kathy Wolan and Mike Relaz

Conservation
Diane Culhane

Horticulture
Bev Krams

Membership
**Renie Norkiewicz and
Shelley Plischke**

Program
Val Solaski

Publicity
Clara Stone

Social
Marilyn and Joe Weber

Ways and Means
Kathy Hendricksen

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Newsletter
Carol Elliott

Scholarship and Website
Mike Dennehey

www.ahgardenclub.com

Vote on Bylaws and Committee Chairs

Since we cannot meet and vote as a group, please review the suggested Bylaws revisions (found attached to the email that contains this Newsletter), and our slate of officers for the Board of Directors (below), and then vote "Yes" or "No" on each. Please email Shelley Plischke at tplischke@comcast.net, and tell her, 1) I vote "Yes" (or "No") on the Bylaws revision, and 2) I vote "Yes" (or "No") on the slate of candidates. Both votes should be in one email. Thank you!

SLATE OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 2020/2022

Following is the slate of new board members who will serve from May 2020 through May 2022. Due to the current situation, we are unable to follow the usual protocol, by asking for approval or added nominations directly from the membership at the April general meeting and voting at the May meeting. So we asked for comments, objections, or names of other nominees in the April newsletter and are now asking you to vote by email in May. Please see above.

Also note that we are still looking for someone to chair the Program Committee and welcome all suggestions.

Conservation	Daniella Sents & Christine Preston
Garden Walk	Kathy Hendrickson Aileen Koeppen co-chair
Newsletter	Mona Frisbie
Plant Sale	Bob Bruitt
Program	open
Publicity	Leslie Meredith
Secretary	Nancy Asquini/Dean
Website	Mike Dennehey

Extra Tomato Plants

Due to the cancellation of our June 6th plant sale, we now have a large amounts of tomato, cabbage, and peper plants. Below is a list of what is available for a donation to the Garden Club.

Burpee Big Boy Hybrid (78 days), Rutgers Heirlooom (70 days), Red Cherry Heirloom (75 days), San Marzano Heirloom (85 days), Illini Star Hybrid (75 days), Yellow Pear Heirloom (75 days), Burpee Big Beef Hybrid (73 days), Cherokee Purple Heirloom (82 days), Arkansas Traveler Heirloom (75 days), Black Krim Heirloom (80 days), Better Boy Hybrid (72 days), Roma Paste Hybrid (77 days), Red Acre Cabbage Hybrid (65 days), Bell Peppers (90 days), and Garden Salsa Anaheim Hot Pepper (76 days) . Plants are individually potted or in bulk with some tomato varieties.

Call Jim Spannagel at 847-322-8207 to place an order and then pick them on his drive way.

Central States Dahlia Society - Sale Ends Soon

Greeting fellow gardeners

Yes, there will be dahlia sales. Certainly different than normal, but we are so happy to share the fruits of our gardening addiction. Please share this information with your clubs.

On-line sale goes through **May 18th**, depending on availability. Download the order form from <https://www.centralstatesdahliasociety.com/>. Select from pickup in Arlington Heights or Northfield. Dahlias are \$7, with profits going to COVID-19 relief.

Mike's Dahlias

Mike's dahlias will be ready a little later. We will have a driveway sale from 10 -3 on Saturday May 23rd. 331 Forest View, Elk Grove Village. Please use social distancing rules when you visit. If you prefer to wait, check with us afterwards as we often have some that are ready later. If the weather is questionable, which includes windy, check with us or watch for an email. Dahlias are \$4, or 3 for \$10. All donations go to COVID-19 relief.

From Carol Cichorski
www.ohwhata.com
or
www.OhWhatABeautifulGarden-Chicagoland.com

Carol and Mike Cichorski did our dahlia program last year.

Have A Home Gardening Question? Ask A Master Gardener!

The University of Illinois Extension North Cook Master Gardeners are still staffing the answer desks (remotely) and are ready to assist you with your gardening questions.

As we shelter at home and spend more time in our gardens, many questions may come to mind. We can help you with: 1) plant/weed identification; 2) questions about houseplants, flowers, vegetables, lawns, trees, and shrubs; 3) insect and disease identification/problems; and much more. Are you new to gardening and need help getting started? Do you want to learn how to compost?

Let us help by providing you with unbiased, research-based horticulture and gardening practices and information.

Email your questions to northcookmg@gmail.com (attaching photos are helpful for identification).

University of Illinois Extension Office -
Arlington Heights
Friendship Park Conservatory - Des Plaines
Oak Park Conservatory - Oak Park

University Of Illinois Extension North Cook -
Master Gardeners
Helping Others Learn To Grow!



AWaytoGarden.com

NEW FOR YOU TO DO PART II

On April 22 (Earth Day) ten members spent the beautiful sunny morning at DerbyLine Gardens. Nothing was going to 'mask' our enthusiasm and as always our expectations were met. Looks like this will become an annual day of fun so stay tuned for part three!



Call **811** or Click Before You Dig.
It's a Free Service.

In Illinois, safe digging starts when you call JULIE at 8-1-1. 8-1-1 is the nationwide 3-digit number to have your underground utility lines marked at no cost. Simply call at least 2 business days before you plan to dig and a helpful call center agent will assist you with your locate request. Both the call and services are free.

JULIE's toll-free number - 1-800-892-0123 - is also available to call for a locate request. Both 8-1-1 and 1-800-892-0123 are staffed by JULIE Call Center agents 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

2020 NORTH COOK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

HELP OTHERS LEARN TO GROW

BECOME A
MASTER
GARDENER



APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED MARCH 9 - MAY 9, 2020

LEARN MORE

GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/LearnMoreMG

OR APPLY TODAY

GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/2020NorthCookMGApp

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE NORTH SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY
EXTENSION PROGRAM COORDINATOR
NEJRA MUMINOVIC | EMAIL: MUMINOV2@ILLINOIS.EDU

I
ILLINOIS
Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the North Cook
County office, 847-201-4176.

NEW 2020 MUST-READ BOOK: *NATURE'S BEST HOPE*

by Douglas W. Tallamy

Reviewed by Holly Petersen,
North Cook County Master Gardener

Timber Press. Conservation guru and author of *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy, has a new book that was released on February 4. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt gazed over the rim of the Grand Canyon and said, "Leave it as it is." Today, 117 years later, only 5 percent of the land in the lower 48 states is close to pristine, self-sustaining ecological condition.

"None of us has the right to destroy the diversity of life that once thrived on our properties—life that is required to run the ecosystems that keep us and our neighbors alive," states Tallamy within the first few pages of *Nature's Best Hope*, "Our privately owned land and the ecosystems upon it are essential to everyone's well-being, not just our own." That is at the heart of this book that places a whole different challenge before each of us. Tallamy goes on to state, "...effective conservation is not beyond the reach of the individual; indeed it is your efforts as an individual that will determine whether we succeed or fail, and whether we

live in a world thriving with life or in one in which little stirs." This engaging new Tallamy book is about fixing our environmental problems, one yard at a time. It challenges each of us to indulge rather than give something up.

Tallamy spends all 230 pages challenging the reader to start thinking about our landscapes differently—whether they be a condo balcony, a small urban or suburban lot, or a larger acreage—to start healing our damaged landscapes with actions that will create immediate short-term gains for humans and long-term ecological benefits for our world. He challenges us to live with more—"more pollination services; more free pest control; more carbon safely tucked away in the soil; more rainwater held on and within land for our use in a clean and fresh state; more bluebirds, orioles, pileated woodpeckers in our yards; more swallowtails and monarchs sipping nectar from our flowers."

Tallamy calls this challenge a Homegrown National Park. He spends much of the text detailing what this Homegrown National Park entails. He takes the concept of the habitat corridor to a whole new level, suggesting that each U.S. land owner (definitely includes our



little rectangles) make it a goal to convert part of their property into a productive native plant community. He discusses carrying capacity extensively-the amount and type of plants in a landscape determine the abundance of diversity of insects and animals that can live in a landscape. He refers to plants that support many creatures as the principal in an ecological savings account, discussing alien and native plants in regard to how they contribute to supporting the species essential to sustainability; and restoring insect habitat-the myriad creatures that are essential at the base of the food chain. The book states that insects pollinate 87.5% of all plants and turn the sun's energy into the food that all creatures need to exist. So, start thinking of your landscape as your new favorite National Park.

His first priority that we can each strive for: Restore the plants by including more of the right kinds of plants in our landscapes. They are the core of all food webs. The author refers us to the National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder (www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder) or Audubon's Plants for Birds (www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds) websites that both list plant genera that are native in every county in the U.S. and ranks them by their ability to host caterpillars, which are essential to supporting birds in our landscapes-thousands of caterpillars are necessary for any bird species to raise a batch of nestlings in a yard. You type in your zip code and a list of native species appears with a photo of the plant, and the number and photos of species of butterflies and moths the plant supports at your address, OR you can choose a species of moth or butterfly and the site will tell you what plants are its host plants-amazing websites to use when shopping for plants! Tallamy also discusses meeting the needs of local bees.

Tallamy concludes by discussing nature's ability to repair herself after fire, natural disasters and human destruction. He cites examples like New York City's High Line (one of my favorite places to go when in NY visiting my daughter)-the long-abandoned elevated rail line in the heart of Manhattan that has been converted into a pedestrian walkway lined with native trees, shrubs and perennials. It winds over traffic-filled streets and between skyscrapers in the Chelsea neighborhood. I've walked it as each section was completed and am in awe of the numerous native species (many of them native here, too) and the birds, bees and butterflies present. Tallamy was stunned to see native bees and butterflies within 5 minutes of setting foot atop the last stair-seeing leafcutter bees he'd never before encountered as well as Monarch butterflies and numerous other pollinators. (www.nycgovparks.org/parks/the-high-line or www.thehighline.org) If NYC can support these pollinators amidst the cement of Manhattan, the average U.S. landowner can work miracles toward creating (or expanding) a Homegrown National Park. He shares ten steps to take: shrink the lawn; remove invasive species; plant keystone genera; increase the abundance and diversity of plantings; plant for specialist pollinators; network with your neighbors; build a conservation-friendly hardscape; create caterpillar pupation sites under your trees; do not use herbicides or pesticides; and educate your neighborhood association or city. Tallamy wants us to change our "humans or nature" mentality for a "humans and nature" ethic. I encourage you to read this book -every ecology-minded gardener will learn a new way of approaching gardening to work toward this home-based approach to conservation that provides hope that we can each make a difference to restore our planet. This book refers to historical conservation practices and ideas, is progressive in its new conservation approach, and is actionable for each of us toward creating a Homegrown National Park. This is certainly one of the most inspirational conservation books I have read in recent years, providing a totally different way to approach conservation in our own yards.