



Arlington Heights garden club

January 2017

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

Constructing Topiaries

Monday, January 23

Speaker: Karen Thomson

Karen has a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University and worked for Hall's Landscape Nursery and for Ball FloraPlant. She started her business, Thomson Topiaries, in 1993. She gives numerous programs for area garden clubs and organizations, including classes at the Chicago Botanic Gardens and Community College.

Karen will demonstrate how to make topiaries by stuffing wire frames with moss and live plants. She will also discuss care, winter treatment and reconditioning of old topiaries.



Greetings from Our President

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. A big thank you to Aggie Prochaska for organizing the holiday party, to Kathy Wolan for providing centerpieces, and to all of our attendees who brought delicious food! Thank you to Josephine Perez and her helpers for the lovely holiday trees around the community. The Garden Club provided an award winning wreath for the Festival of Wreaths at the Historical Society to help them with their fund raising thanks to a wreath donation from Kathy Wolan and the artistic flair added by Josephine.

Our Garden Walk Planning Committee had their first meeting this month and plans are underway for Sunday, June 25th for the Garden Walk and Unique Boutique. Since the date is later in June, we decided to have our 2nd annual plant sale at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, June 10 and sell any leftovers the next Saturday, June 17. All four Saturdays in June we will sell tickets for our walk at the Farmer's Market. We need volunteers and would love to have some new faces assist us with a myriad of tasks for the Garden Walk and Plant Sale. Please see Adrienne Martz or myself on how you might help with planning, publicity, volunteer coordination, raffle prizes, etc. No experience is necessary and it is a great way to get involved and know members better!

Please see inside this newsletter for other news regarding the Garden Walk and community events. See you at the January meeting!

Kathy Hendricksen, President

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January Hostesses

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

Pat Garrity

Marie Berhinig

Bev Krams

December Holiday Party

The club had a wonderful time at the Annual Holiday Party on December 12th. Thanks, Aggie, and everyone else!



Holiday Trees Decorated by AHGC



Garden Club members decorated Christmas trees at the library (left), Senior Center (middle), and Village Hall (right).

Winning Wreath!

Josephine's birdhouse wreath won 2nd place in the category of Seasonal at the Historical Society's Festival of Wreathes in December. Congratulations, Josephine!! Her wreath also netted a \$100 donation to the Historical Society!



GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - January 2017

Jan 14 - "The Dazzling World of Dragonflies and Damselflies" - sponsored by Citizens For Conservation, \$10 for non-members - 9:30 AM at Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough St, Barrington, Ill.

Feb 11 - "Living Soils" - sponsored by Citizens For Conservation, \$10 for non-members - 9:30 AM at Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough St, Barrington, Ill.

Feb. 11 thru Mar. 26 - "Orchids in Vogue" - the 2017 Orchid Show at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Mar. 8 - "Spring Care of Perennials" - a presentation by Diana Stoll - at the Garden Club of Mount Prospect - at Friendship Park Conservatory in Des Plaines, Ill. Contact Helen Konieczka at 847-368-9343 for information.

Mar. 9 - "Growing Dahlias" - Ray and Karen Holich have been growing dahlias since 2001, and propagate over 300 each year. They will explain the process; types, dividing, starting tubers, cuttings, rooting cuttings, and planting. And what to expect the first 45 days, as they grow and need to be disbudded. - at the Des Plaines Garden Club meeting at Frisbie Senior Center in Des Plaines

Mar 11 - "Native Shrubs as Habitat and Host Plants" - sponsored by Citizens For Conservation, \$10 for non-members - 9:30 AM at Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough St, Barrington, Ill.

Mar. 11-12 - "Illinois Orchid Society Show & Sale" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Mar. 14 - "Plant a Rainbow" - 2017 District IX Annual Meeting and Luncheon - at Concorde Banquets in Kildeer, Il.

Mar. 18-26 - "Chicago's Blooming - the Chicago Flower & Garden Show" - at Navy Pier in Chicago, Ill.

Mar. 19-20 - "Go Native" - the 90th Annual Garden Clubs of Illinois Convention - at the Chicago Marriott/Naperville - Naperville, Ill.

Mar. 25-26 - "Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show & Sale" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Mar. 30 - Post-Orchid Show sale of the excess orchids left over after the end of the show - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Want to Help Monarch Butterflies?

The State of Illinois has started the process for having a special Monarch license plate, and those who are interested need to make themselves known. There will be a new plate with a monarch sticker. To get this started, the State needs 2,000 people to fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and send \$10. Money earned from the plate will go to roadside reseeding.

Winter Maintenance & Pruning

The weather outside is frightful and this is no time to think about gardening - right? Actually, this is a great time. There are no outside chores to beckon so sitting by the fire with a note pad makes great sense. Hopefully you keep a garden journal throughout the year and review it before planning next season's garden. Review what went well, what didn't and what changes you wanted to make. Then, when the garden catalogues and magazines arrive in your mailbox, you can develop a plan rather than looking through them and thinking - I want that and that ... and oh some of those too. Once you get those new plants, you have to decide where to put them - if you even have space. It is better to determine a need and a site before doing any shopping.

When it is cold and icy, we tend to put down lots of salt or de-icer to make the walkways safe. But consider what that salt does to your landscape plants. Over the years, salt can build up in the soil and make it impossible for anything useful to grow. Look for a non-salt de-icer that is more eco friendly. Also, don't shovel snow on shrubs, especially evergreens, as it may break branches or deform the plant. Throw the snow and de-icer out farther into the yard. The grass can handle it better than the flowers and shrubs.

Mulch is something we put down in the garden beds to suppress weeds and retain moisture. But in the winter time, it also serves a purpose. It is not meant to prevent the ground from freezing - rather it is meant to keep it frozen. Freezing and thawing cycles can heave plants out of the ground where they are more susceptible to winter damage. If you see missing mulch, you should rake it back in place to provide protection until spring. You can also use evergreen boughs from winter decorations as mulch. Just place them on the ground where you need mulch. Air and water pass through but it provides insulation to the soil. Also look for deer, rabbit or vole damage to plants. When food is scarce, they are prone to eating branches and bark which can injure or kill plants. Sharp, clean cuts close to the ground suggest rabbit damage while deer rip and shred branches higher up. Bark damage at the base suggests voles. The best method of protection is to keep them out with fencing. Keep mulch pulled away from the trunk so voles don't have a place to hide while eating the bark.

In last September's newsletter, Bev reminded you not to do extensive pruning in the fall because it can promote tender growth that is susceptible to frost damage. It is obviously too cold to do much pruning now, but as the weather moderates, you can do some selective pruning. It is easier on the plant to prune when it is dormant, the sap is not flowing and diseases are not an issue. And it is easier to see the structure of a plant without the leaves. However, if it is a spring blooming plant (think forsythia, lilac, rhododendron, azalea, spirea, magnolia, or flowering specimen trees) - **DON'T PRUNE IT UNTIL AFTER FLOWERING IN THE SPRING.** You will be cutting off this season's flowers. They form new flower buds in the few weeks immediately after blooming.

However, for non-blooming or later blooming trees and shrubs, a mild late winter day is a great time to prune. If a shrub is blooming less lately, it may need to have the oldest, woodiest stems pruned off near the ground. This will promote fresh new growth in the spring which will become the next blooming branches. But take no more than 1/3 of the branches off in a season to avoid excess shock to the plant.

One final thought - get your lawn mower in for servicing now and beat the spring rush.

Pete Landwehr, University of Illinois Master Gardener

Garden Club to Aid Community Garden

The Garden Club's Board of Directors has accepted an invitation to be part of a joint effort Community Garden at the Dryden Apartments. Arlington Heights School District 25 administration has proposed the idea of a community garden near the Dryden Apartments in Arlington Heights to provide an outdoor learning experience for the children and families of that complex. The Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce and the Arlington Heights Rotary Club will be providing financial support to provide tools, garden hoses, watering cans, and other items necessary for such a garden project.

Our Arlington Heights Garden Club has been asked to provide the education portion of this community activity which means being available to instruct and teach children and residence, the basics of planting, growing and harvesting garden produce. The District's goal is to make this a reality for the spring of 2017, and has already determined the location of the garden plots and has made plans to prepare the soil for planting. More details will be announced as soon as they are available. If you would be interested in sharing your experience and knowledge with others in our community, please contact Jim Spannagel or Pete Landwehr.

Garden Walk Needs

For several years Aggie Prochaska has provided storage for about a 4 foot by 8 foot area in her garage for the supplies we use year after year at the Garden Walk and Unique Boutique. The supplies are in tubs or a garbage can. Aggie is about to put her house on the market and we really need a member to let her know by the end of this month if they are willing to take over to store the materials for us.

Other things we would like our members to consider are any businesses they have relationships with that might be a sponsor, place an ad in our Garden Walk program, or donate items for our raffle. Pat Dennehey is already collecting baskets and filler items so if you have anything you are willing to regift, please give it to her at any of our upcoming general meetings. If you have any crafters that you think might be interested in our Unique Boutique, please let Barb Franks know as we are preparing materials to get vendors signed up.

Thanks in advance for volunteering and getting involved!!

Know a College Student?

Citizens for Conservation in Barrington has a Summer Internship Program that offers paid internships to college students majoring in environmental sciences. The ten-week internship offers students a hands-on learning experience; interns actively participate in the ongoing restoration of CFC properties, including planting native sedges and forbs, seed-gathering, weeding, brush-cutting and removal of invasive species. Interns take part in innovative restoration techniques used in the land management/restoration cycle.

In addition to restoration activities, interns assist in CFC's Youth Education program, working with children in activities designed to inspire and encourage future involvement in conservation and preservation.

Internships begin in late May. Candidates should be currently enrolled in college with a preferred area of study in environmental science or a related field. Interested candidates should email a resume to cfc@citizensforconservation.org.



Secretary of State
 Vehicle Services Department
 Specialty License Plates Request

This space for use by
 Secretary of State.

Secretary of State
 Vehicle Services Department
 Special Plates Division
 501 S. Second St., Rm. 312
 Springfield, IL 62756

This request may only be processed
 in the Springfield Office.

WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM

Specialty license plates are authorized by Illinois statute with the primary goal of raising funds for a specific organization(s). The plates are available to the public and are not awarded based on specific qualifying criteria.

- The Secretary of State will begin production of a new specialty plate category after receiving 2,000 requests for the plate.
- Design and color of the plates is at the discretion of the Office of the Secretary of State.
- A non-refundable Specialty license plates fee must accompany each plate request. The fee will be deposited into the special fund as designated by statute regardless of whether or not the plates are produced.

Name of Specialty Plate Being Requested: Monarch License Plate Decal Date: _____

Current License Plates #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Vehicle Owner's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Telephone Number (8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.): _____

Signature: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	Name of Specialty Plate: _____ Date Received: _____
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