



# Arlington Heights garden club

October 2016

*Growing Together*

*Carol Elliott, Editor*

## Illinois Wildflowers

Monday, October 24

Speaker: Kris DaPra McCabe



This program will help gardeners incorporate wildflowers into their gardens by giving information about the native flowers that grow in our home state. Kris will identify some of the common native wildflowers that can be seen as close as Busse Woods. Hear about the challenges of preserving and protecting our precious natural heritage in addition to incorporating natives into your landscape.

Kris DaPra lives with John and their two sons in Elk Grove Village, not far from Ned Brown Preserve (more popularly known as Busse Woods). Kris, who has a background in ecology, worked for the Forest Preserves herself during the 1990s and continues to contribute as a habitat restoration volunteer with The Friends of Busse Woods and as a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener. She is known for her 2014 special project FPD 365; <http://fpdcc.com/behind-fpd-365/>. Check it out!!

## Greetings from Our President

We've been able to enjoy some nice weather going into the fall which I hope continues for a bit longer. We had an enjoyable program on gourds in September, and I look forward to this month's speaker.

The movie that Lauren Balla had presented at our September meeting of of the Girl Scout garden progress at Clearbrook was impressive. The collaboration between the Juliette Girl Scouts and the Garden Club continues on Saturday, October 15th from 9-12 to plant a tree, shrub, and bulbs.

I hope some of you will be joining us for the Mosaic Pumpkin Workshop that our Artistic Chair, Barb Franks, has organized to be held on Sunday, October 23rd from 12-4 p.m. at Olympic.

Josephine Perez will also be looking for volunteers to help decorate the holiday trees at the Arl. Hts. Library, Senior Center, and Village Hall that are organized by the Garden Club. See the article in this newsletter.

Thank you to those that signed up for a committee. We will be sending the list around again in October and hope to have everyone volunteer to get involved in at least one committee. It gives you a chance to get to know your fellow club members better as well as carry out the work of our Garden Club.

*Kathy Hendricksen, President*

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## October Hostesses

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

*Kathy Hendricksen*

*Paula Poncer DeMichael*

*Aggie Prochaska*

## The New Board Was Installed at the September Meeting



## Committee Members Needed!

At our October meeting we will again be passing around a sign up asking members what committees they may be interested in helping. Please plan on helping with Artistic, Civics, Conservation, Garden Walk, Membership, Program, Publicity, Scholarship, Social, or Web Site. Val Solaski of the Program Committee is seeking someone that would be willing to be a technical coordinator with our monthly speakers to confirm the AV equipment they are using and to assist them getting set up prior to their presentation.



## Rain Barrel Update

A number of Garden Club members have received their free Metropolitan Water Reclamation District water barrels and report successfully using them to water their pots and flower beds. The Arlington Heights Village website states that the free-rain barrel project will end on December 31, 2016, and the MWRD will return to the former program which will sell the rain collection barrels to the public (cost about \$47 each). If anyone has not ordered their barrel(s) (an Arlington Heights resident can request up to 4), this would be a good time to do so.



There is an electronic order form on the Village's web-site, or it can be done in person by stopping by Public Works and filling out a hardcopy request. Delivery has been taking several weeks due to the large number of requests and the barrels may not be delivered until it is too late to use them this fall. They may need to be stored for the winter and then connected to collect spring rainfall. If a member needs assistance in attaching their downspout to the rain barrel, Garden Club member Mike Relaz has experience with this task and has generously offered to help members install their water saving barrels.

This is also a good time to remind everyone who has a rain barrel that they need to be emptied before temperatures fall below the freezing point, and adjusted so they do not collect water during the winter months. Also, downspouts may need to be reconnected to move water away from the bottom of the downspout where rain water might gather.

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## Happy Holidays

Yes, they are coming up and the club will again decorate the trees in the library, the Senior Center and Village Hall, so we need tree decorators. The more helpers we have the quicker the tree will be decorated.

You do not have to be a member of the artistic Committee to help, just let me know you are coming. Jo Perez 847-392-7943.

The largest tree is on the first floor of the library near the business center. Five or six helpers are needed and the decorating day is Saturday November 26th at 10:00 AM. The Senior Center Lobby tree will be decorated on Friday November 18th at 10:00 AM and needs four to five workers. The Village Hall Tree also needs four to five decorators. The date has not been scheduled but I should know by this month's club meeting. We usually have a fun time and get to know each other better. Looking forward to decorating trees and getting into the holiday spirit.



## GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - OCTOBER 2016

Oct. 15-16 - "Wisconsin-Illinois Lily Society Lily Bulb Sale" - at Chicago Botanic Garden

Oct. 15-16 - "Midwest Daffodil Society Bulb Sale" - at Chicago Botanic Garden

Oct. 17-19 - "Roadside Flower Workshops" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill. (see Sale on Oct. 21-23)

Oct. 19 - "District IX Flower Arranging School" - sponsored by District IX, Garden Clubs of Illinois - at United Methodist Church in Northbrook, Ill.

Oct. 21-23 - "Roadside Flower Sale" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Oct. 22 - "Cider and Ale Festival" - at Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Ill.

Oct. 25 - "Floral Design Workshop - Witch Cauldron" - create a pave-style Halloween centerpiece - at the greenhouse at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Ill.

Nov. 10 thru 13 - "Holiday Craft Faire" - at The Grove in Glenview, Ill.

Nov. 11-13 - "Christmas Open House" - at Platt Hill Nursery in Bloomingdale, Ill.

Nov. 25 thru Jan. 2, 2017 - "Wonderland Express" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Dec. 3 - "Celebrate the Season Holiday Festival and Mistletoe Market" - at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Ill.

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### A New Very Young Member?

Thank you! My Zinnia (Zoey) got so big it fell over! I want to plant more, so I am researching how to get the seeds from the flowers to plant more! Thank you so much for your kindness of putting me in your newsletter for September! It means so much to me. How do you become a member? I want to become a member so I can learn how to garden in the correct way and have flowers like my beautiful Zinnia.

Best Regards,  
Ava Harwood





# BRINGING PLANTS INDOORS

Are you looking at the plants in containers sitting on the deck or patio and wondering what to do with them now that winter is approaching. Where are you going to put them? What do you need to do to them before you bring them in?

Some plants resent being chilled, while others can handle a lot of cold. Certain plants may benefit from being left out longer than others. Christmas cactus needs shorter days and cooler weather to set buds. And some orchids need the cooler weather to set buds. So each plant will need to be handled by its own needs as to when it will need to come indoors.

The first thing you need to decide is "Are they really worth bringing indoors?" Many times, the plant is way too much trouble, or is a magnet for pests and diseases. I have never been able to overwinter a tropical hibiscus or Arica palm and have it alive and looking good come spring. So decide which would be easier to just replace next year. At the cost of some of the chemicals needed just to keep them alive, it might even be cheaper.

Then look to see which can be cut back to save space. On some, you really cannot without sacrificing the appearance. But others can be cut way back (and really benefit as the root system doesn't need to support all of that excess top growth). Coleus, geranium, and many others are candidates. And if anything is in bloom, you do want to cut off all of the flowers. I know that is rough, but you need to. You don't want to bring thrips indoors! At this point, hit them with the garden hose, full strength, to knock off as many of the pests as possible. Pay particular attention to the underside of the leaves. Also, wash off the pots, under the rim, and on the bottom.

See if any need to be repotted. If they are root-bound, judiciously root-prune the plant, and wash off any remaining soil. Using new soil, repot them in a clean container. Before you bring any plants back indoors, they will need to be treated for pests. If you think you can do the treatment after you bring the plants indoors, think again! Indoors, without predators, the insect populations can balloon to the point that you cannot control them or catch up. So do it outdoors.

Get the containers up off the ground, preferable so the bottom of the pot isn't flat on any surface. You will need to spray the foliage with a contact insecticide to get rid of any hitchhikers. Be sure to spray the stems, and both top and bottom of the leaves. Then you will need to drench the soil to kill off anything that is living in the pot (ants, sow bugs, etc.). Do this about a week before you plan to bring them in.

The product that I like to use, as it takes care of both the contact and drench insecticide, and is a systemic is from Bayer and is called "Rose & Flower Insect Killer". It does contain imidacloprid, but as they will be indoors, I don't think the bee population will be affected.

Even after all this, when you bring them in, try to keep them separate from the other houseplants that you have. If this isn't possible, you can isolate them in plastic bags for a while. Monitor them often to make sure something has not escaped your treatments.

Bob Nicholson





# Mosaic Pumpkin Class

These mosaic pumpkins will introduce you to the art of picassiette, mosaics using china and glass shards. Choose a three-dimensional pumpkin or a pumpkin hanging plaque. This class includes all materials, supplies, and tools. You can also bring any dishes or old jewelry you'd like to include on your piece.

Instructor: Lisa Tolbert, Mosaic Whimsies

Date: Sunday October 23

Time: 12-4pm

Location: Olympic Swim Center, 660 N. Ridge Ave., Arl. Hts

Cost: \$40 with 20 or more participants

Cost: \$50 with fewer than 20 participants

This is normally a \$75 class but Lisa Tolbert is willing to discount for our group.

Please provide your payment of \$40 cash or check made payable to Mosaic Whimsies to Barb Franks no later than Saturday, October 15. If we have fewer than 20 participants, we will collect the additional \$10 the day of the event.

Feel free to invite your friends!

You can bring payment to the September Garden Club meeting or mail it to Barb Franks, 908 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights 60005.

My cell number is 847-612-8892. Please call me with any questions.

We will have access to the lower level of the Swim Center from 10 to 5 that day.

