



Arlington Heights garden club

September 2016

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

What to Do with Gourds: Growing, Drying, Pollinating

Monday, September 26

Speaker: Julia Tudor

Julia is a commissioned artist and creative spirit. She brings her love for Mother Earth into her classes and workshops. Her classes combine information and hands-on experience for one-of-a-kind projects. She is a member of the American, Illinois and Wisconsin Gourd Societies and the Wauconda Plant and Garden Club.

This program is an overview of the history, growing, and pollinating of gourds. Learn how gourds have been used throughout history on all continents. Get tips for growing them in Zone 5.



Greetings from Our President

Summer really went by fast! Our Garden Walk/ Unique Boutique/Plant Sale was our most financially successful event in the club's history so we will be forming a task force to decide how to donate some of the proceeds. We are waiting for the museum to confirm which Sunday next June our walk will be, but thanks to Jim Spannagel and Pete Landwehr we already have several gardens lined up for 2017 and a couple for 2018. I am also pleased to have Adrienne Martz as our new Ways & Means Chair.

We had wonderful summer meetings at Jim Spannagel's and Carol Elliott's homes so thanks to them for hosting and sharing their knowledge. We had a perfect evening for our summer cookout so thank you to Aggie Prochaska and Thom Kraak for organizing and grilling and to all the members for bringing delicious potluck items. It was a nice treat to view the homes at the Historical Museum as well as the beautiful gardens that Kathy Wolan and Civics volunteers maintain. Kathy has also been organizing volunteers to help weed at the Arl. Hts. Post office. Hopefully some of you are willing to assist the Girl Scouts by either helping on work days over weekends this fall at Clearbrook or donating plants from your gardens.

Please see inside this newsletter for info on the club's tour of the Chicago Botanic Gardens and for committee sign-ups. See you soon at the September meeting!

Kathy Hendricksen, President

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

Ways and Means
Adrienne Martz

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.

Helen Soper

Paula Poncer DeMichael

Patricia Garrity

Thank You to the Club

Hi! I am a student from Olive Mary Stitt school.

I want to thank you for coming to our school and helping me plant my seed at the earth fair. It is huge and has 15 blossoms ready to bloom.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Ava Harwood



Committee Members Needed!

At our September meeting we will 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.

Photos from this Summer

Top left: June meeting at Jim Spannagel's garden where we learned about bees.

Bottom left: Bee hive at the Chicago Botanic Garden

Top right: Chicago Botanic Garden

Bottom right: AH Garden Club tours the Chicago Botanic Garden



CBG Rooftop Tour

Last Saturday 24 members and friends attended a field trip at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Thank you to Jim Spannagel for organizing this event. The weather was a little iffy in the morning but it cleared up and was a wonderful outing to learn about their rooftop gardens, tour on the tram, see the trains, the new education center and enjoy lunch together.



The advantages of green roofs such as lower energy costs, longer lasting roofs, water detention, reduced noise pollution and cooling of the urban heat island were all discussed. Some were surprised to learn of the small amount of growing medium on the roof--4-6 inches of expanded clay, perlite, vermiculite, and organic matter. Through the years since the rooftop was planted in 2009, many plants have died and others have been studied extensively for their ability to survive heat, cold, drought, salt, pH changes and wind. Low maintenance is a major goal of this rooftop garden and weeding is minimal with watering only during severe drought. One task which brought smiles to our faces was when we learned that the rooftop garden is mowed short once each year in the spring.

Update on the Post Office Garden Work

Our ready team of volunteers has weeded the west side parking lot and the front of the Post Office property and also kept the planters in front alive. It is hard to notice the absence of weeds in every crack and crevice but it has a much more groomed look without all those weeds. Many bags were removed and bushes and bottoms of trees were also trimmed. We will evaluate what we want to do with it in the Spring after we see what comes up in the way of Spring flowers. There will need to be some Weed-Be-Gone spraying before we plant anything, due to a bad outbreak of wild bluebell plants. We will also keep the front of the east side presentable, but I don't want to tackle every weed (and there are millions) in the east side parking lot. The Post Office keeps the islands mowed and reasonably presentable, and that is good enough for me. I am not about to put gallons of roundup on the weeds decorating the paved island dividers and between every available crack next to them. Let them make oxygen for the earth! Maybe we can look at as a wildflower or native plant exhibit!! Hardly anyone sees that side of the building except the employees and I believe they probably don't care one way or the other.

A special thanks to Mike Relaz, Bev Krams, Renie Norkiewicz, Kathy Hendricksen, Jim Spannagel, Shelly Plischke and Aggie Prochaska for making it a fun time of gardening together in the long evenings of the summer. We will gather to do a final cleanup some Saturday afternoon this Fall. Date to be determined. I will be notifying our fine group by email but if anyone else wants to get in on the weeding fun, please contact me at 847-392-5418.

Kathy Wolan

GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - SEPTEMBER 2016

Sept. 15 & 22 - "Monarch Butterfly Tagging" - Learn how this event assists in the tracking of these butterflies as they migrate back to Mexico - at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Ill.

Sept. 17-18 - "Central States Dahlia Society Show" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Sept. 23-25 - "Chicago Gourmet: A Celebration of Food & Wine" - a culinary all-star weekend of more than 150 fine restaurants and purveyors, with celebrity chef demonstrations; beer, wine, and cocktail seminars, and food tastings - at Millennium Park in Chicago, Ill.

Sept. 28 - "Dist. IX, GCI, Fall Leadership Meeting" - at Frisbie Senior Center in Des Plaines, Ill.

Oct. 1-2 - "Dahlia Show" - at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Ill.

Oct. 5 - "10 Best Deer Resistant Plants" - a lecture and walk at Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Ill.

Oct. 8 - "Cantigny Fall Festival" - at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Ill.

Oct. 8-9 - "Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show & Sale" - at Chicago Botanic Garden

Oct. 13 - "Conservation Conference, Garden Clubs of Illinois" - in Dole Hall at Plymouth Place in LaGrange Park, Ill.

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



Helping the Girl Scouts at Clearbrook

As was presented at our summer meeting, Juliette Girl Scouts, Emily Balla, Lauren Balla, and Clairebelle Boudart are working on preparing and planting a patio garden at Clearbrook for the day residents and their families to enjoy. Club members are invited to help by donating plants and working with the girls. See the plant list Kathy Hendricksen sent in an email on September 16.

Work days are planned for Saturday, 9/24 from 9-12:00 p.m., Sunday, October 9th 9-noon and Saturday, October 15th so please mark your calendars and watch for more details. Clearbrook, 3201 Campbell, Rolling Meadows,

Don't Touch That Shrub!

So what should you prune this fall?? Basically the general rule of thumb is to prune immediately after a shrub has finished blooming. Reducing a big plant's size over several years is your best bet at achieving the shape you desire. Removing NO more than a third of any plant over the course of a single season is the correct way to prune. Often pruning is ignored for a number of years and this creates a weak and overgrown plant. Regular pruning does keep a plant shapely and encourages growth.

When you prune this time of year, it stimulates new growth. Tender new growth will freeze with an early frost in addition to the possibility of killing the plant.

This is the time of the season that plants are in the process of going dormant. Pruning will stress and weaken the plant as it is going into its dormancy season. Woody plant stems have 'food making' ability and by removing the stems you are removing some of the plants ability to make food. In addition, if you are pruning while the weather is still warm the plant will send up sap that makes the pruning 'wounds' close up much more slowly than if pruning was done when the plant was dormant. Fall is also the time of year when fungi and disease spores spread. Opening wounds on fall pruned shrubs increases the risk of disease.

Spring and summer flowering shrubs and trees start setting their new buds immediately after they have bloomed. So pruning your azaleas, rhododendrons, spirea, magnolia, flowering specimen trees, lilacs and forsythia at this time of year will result in fewer blooms, if any, for next season. These plants have already formed next year's buds and are ready to bloom as soon as spring shows its 'head'! The safest time to prune spring/summer bloomers is within 6-8 weeks right after their flowers fade.

Other shrubs and trees that have bloomed in July and August should be pruned in late winter/early spring before the new growth starts because these plants will be developing buds during the spring of the year. Basically the safest time to prune non-spring bloomers is when the plant is dormant.

Yes, you are right! The weather is great and you see all the work that needs to be done thinking you will save yourself time in the spring.

However the ONLY pruning you should be doing at this time of year is to remove any diseased areas or damaged wood. Relax and start dreaming about all those spring buds you saved from destruction!

http://www.gardensalive.com/product/fall-pruning--dont/you_bet_your_garden

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cook/eb395/entry_11102/

<https://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-4.pdf>

BevKrams
University of Illinois
Master Gardener



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.

