



Arlington Heights garden club

Celebrating our 65th Anniversary

February 2020

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

**February 24, 2020,
Village Hall
Habitat Makeover: Adding
Wildlife Value to Your Landscape
Social 7:00-7:30
Meeting 7:30-9:00**



Andy Stahr has over a decade of award-winning experience as a design professional, both in the public and private sectors, as well as in the ecological restoration contracting industry. Andy serves as the Principal Landscape Architect and Ecologist for ecology + vision, LLC. He holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois.

Andy offers a unique perspective on the successful implementation of natural areas into home landscapes. He will introduce a landscape wildlife value rating tool that can be used to evaluate a landscape's current wildlife value and to plan for increasing its value through adaptive gardening.

Greetings from Our President

While elections at the national level begin to pick up steam, we have our own local Garden Club positions to fill with local candidates. As I get to know our veteran Garden Club members and become more acquainted with our many new members, I am ever amazed at the level of talent and skills that many of you possess.

Due to some anticipated changes in our Bylaws, we will probably need a couple more members to step forward and take charge of a committee (more to follow at our March meeting). Being involved is often its own reward. Knowing you are helping our club become even better, is a great feeling. I must say, that being President has been one of the easier responsibilities I have ever had. I am working with some of the most giving, creative and hard-working people in this community!

At our February 24th meeting, we are having a "Job Fair" to help everyone know what each committee in our club is all about. Starting about 7:10 PM, get yourself a cup of coffee and a snack and walk around the room to the committee locations to find out what these groups actually do. Pick a couple that sound interesting to you and then listen and ask questions. We need both Chairpersons and committee members. So when asked, please seriously considering saying, "Yes", and do yourself and your club a favor, by getting more involved. We PROMISE there will be no complications with counting the voting returns!!!

Jim Spannagel, President

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

February Hostesses

A reminder and thank you from Marilyn and Joe Weber, our Social Chairs, to those bringing treats to the February meeting.

Paul & Diane Culhane

Aileen Koeppen

Josephine Perez

March Library Program

Georgia O'Keeffe is well known for her brilliant paintings of flowers, nature, and the landscape around her New Mexico home. Leslie Goddard will be portraying her at the AHML on Saturday March 28th @ 1pm. The program is being co-sponsored with our garden club. If you wish to reserve a seat before it is opened to the public you will be able to sign up at the Monday February 24 meeting. If you will not be at the meeting please take the time to email BevKrams@gmail.com to reserve your seat! This is a WINNER and not to be missed!!



Garden Walk and Unique Boutique

Our biggest fundraiser will be Sunday, June 28th, from 10 am - 4 pm, so be sure to have your calendar marked! We will need everyone's help and for you to promote it to friends and family. We have 5 gardens confirmed at 4 homes and The Moorings. This year a ticket is \$15 before the walk and \$20 the day and our web site already has the link to sell tickets.

If you have any ideas of businesses to contact or a personal relationship with them, please let Pat or Kathy know as we will be preparing the solicitation list in February. We will have a letter stuffing party on March 7th starting at 10:00 at Kathy's house at 1319 N. Dunton with lunch served so sign up to help. Please also give any baskets or new items that could go into a basket as a filler to Pat.

Kathy Hendricksen, Garden Walk & Unique Boutique Chair
Pat Dennehey, Solicitation Co-Chair

Committees Seek Members-Call It A "Job Fair"

When reviewing the tremendous amount of talent, skill and wisdom in the Arlington Heights Garden Club, it is a shame that more of it is not used! Many of you bring exceptional gifts that could be shared with our community. Your Board of Directors believes it is time to reach out and invite more participation. Would you be willing to serve for one year on a committee with several other members?

Some committees involve a short time commitment (months of May & June) such as the new "Plant Sale" committee. Hands are needed to plan and carry out this annual event (June 6th). What types of help is needed? Members would dig and pot plants, care for plants until the sale, set up and arrange plants for day of sale, put labels on each plant, work at the sale, and clean up after the sale. Some people might enjoy answering questions about care of the plants, others might enjoy helping people by carrying plants to the car. Very importantly, you might just have an idea that might improve our sale!

Sometimes we just need a few extra hands to make things go smoother and faster. Committee chairs will be contacting members soon, especially new members, to see if you can make a commitment of a year serving on one of our 12 Standing Committees (Artistic, Civics, Conservation, Horticulture, Membership, Newsletter, Program, Publicity, Scholarship, Social, Ways and Means, and Website) or 5 Special Committees (Bylaws, Garden Walk/Unique Boutique, Nominating, Special Events, and Plant Sale).

Some may be saying, "I'd love to get involved, but I don't know what these committees do!" That is a fair question. We hope to have a "Job Fair" during the social half-hour (7-7:30 PM) of the February meeting. Chairmen/women will be stationed around the meeting room so they can tell you a little more about what they do and what their plans are. Please ask your questions and determine if you have an interest in getting more involved. And "Yes", you can serve on more than one committee.

It is the sincere hope of the Board of Directors that every member, especially our new ones, enjoy the Club and feel they are an active part of the Club. Getting involved is the best way to meet new people and feel satisfaction in what you are doing. Over the past glorious 65 years of our existence, our Club has done some amazing things. Everything accomplished was completed only with the involvement and commitment of many people. Please say, "Yes", when someone asks you join their committee!

Container Workshop Photos



AHGC Gaining Garden Knowledge February/March 2020

Feb 22-7:30-2:30pm **Gardener's Pathway Seminar** Kiswaukee College \$50
<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2020-02-22-gardeners-pathway-2020>

Feb 22-9:30-11:30am **CFC Citizens for Conservation** "The Battle for Our Wetlands with Kevin Scheiwiler", Barrington Village Hall \$10 nonmembers
<https://citizensforconservation.org/education/community-education/>

Feb 22 Saturday 9:30-4pm **"Edible Michiana"** Lunch included, register Fernwood in Niles MI Edible Horticulture Event

Feb 22 Saturday 1pm **"Barnswallows: a wild bird concern"** @ Hawthorne Gardens
register www.hawthornegardens.net

February 29 8-4pm **Natural Landscaping Seminar** @ McHenry College www.thewppc.org \$40

Chalet Nursery

Register on Line <https://chaletnursery.com/pages/events>
Feb 28 & 29 @ 10am **"Top Spring Plants in 2020"** by Jim Nau

March 1 Saturday 1-2pm **"Pantone Color of the Year"**

Friendship Park Conservatory: 847-298-3500, 395 W. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines
Register @ mppd.org

Check out the website for MANY nature Programs for you, your kids or Grandkids!!
March 7 Saturday 10-12N **Spring into Gardening** \$25/30 Code 38850

March 11 Wednesday 7-9pm **Hypertufa Garden Sculpture** \$40/45 Code 38861 call before Mar 6

March 17 Tuesday 12-4pm **Farm on Ogden Trip**
\$35/40 Code 38847

March 19 Thursday 7-8:30pm **Succulent Bouquet**
\$40/45 Code 38839

Feb 26-Wed 9-3:30pm **VISIT TED'S GREENHOUSE**
in Tinley Park for a behind the scenes tour of a commercial grower, plant shopping and lunch at a local eatery \$45/50 Code 38191



Gardening Knowledge cont.

Chicago Botanical Garden Continuing Education Opportunities
<https://www.chicagobotanic.org/education/adulted>

February 8-March 22 Chicago Botanic Garden **ORCHID SHOW** 10,000 Orchids blooming @once!!

Feb 18 Tues 6:30-8:30pm **Front Yard Design @** CBG \$32

Feb 22 Sat 11-1pm **Poisonous Mushrooms of Illinois @** CBG \$32

Mar. 23-24 - "**Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show & Sale**"

D214 Community Education

register online: ce.d214.org Check out Home/Garden for MORE CLASSES Ask for the Gold Card Price!

Planning Your Garden Thursday Feb 20@ 6-7pm at Forest View FREE Fun with **Herbs** Saturday Feb 22@ 9-11am at Forest View \$25

March 19 Thursday 6-7pm **Seed Starting @** Forest View FREE

April 23 Thursday 5-6pm **Planting Your Garden @** Forest View FREE

AND THERE'S MORE!!!

March 7 Saturday 8-2:30pm for the **6th Annual Spring Gardening Inspiration** in Darian. See www.dariengardenclub.com for details

March 7&8-Check Times **Festival of the Sugar Maples@** Coral Woods Conservation Area in Marengo, IL

March 10 Tuesday 9:30-2pm "**Think Spring and Grow Green**" Our Dist.IX Annual meeting and Luncheon with Kim Hartman Landscape Designer as guest speaker. \$39 @ the Cotillion in Palatine

March 14 Saturday 9:30-11:30am CFC Citizens for Conservation **Vanishing Edens: Biodiversity in a Changing World** with Michael Jeffords Barrington Village Hall \$10 nonmembers <https://citizensforconservation.org/education/community-education/>

March 17-7:30-9pm **Preserving, Protecting, and Promoting the Monarch Butterfly @** the Mt. Prospect Library

Mar. 18 thru 22 - "**Chicago Flower and Garden Show**" - at Navy Pier in Chicago

March 21 Saturday Michigan City High School "**Spring Garden Show by the Master Gardeners**" \$10 lpmastergardener.com

March 22 Sunday 2-3:30pm "**The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World**" Meet the author @ Fernwood in Niles MI register.

Jumping Worms: WHAT??!! Invasive Species Alert

.....worms that wiggle so rapidly they've been dubbed jumping worms. This is Mr. Brown of New Lenox's description of the worms he thinks he got from a bag of mulch he bought. He spotted them last fall in his garden but jumping worms have been around northern Illinois since 2015. In the Midwest the worms were first officially spotted in 2013, at the University of Wisconsin arboretum in Madison. The worms are actually native to East Asia and have also been called crazy worms, Alabama jumpers and snake worms.

The worms don't actually jump they just wiggle a lot, thrash wildly when they are handled or disturbed and can shed their tail in defense. They are about 4-8 inches long and are darker on top than on the bottom with a glossy or iridescent skin. There is also a smooth colored band (milky white clitellum) that circles the body. It is not raised.



You will find these creatures between mid-summer through the first hard freeze. They breed quickly during the growing season as it takes only 60 days for adults to reach maturity and yes, their eggs will survive a Chicago winter. Oh, and did I mention they are capable of reproducing without mating!!

Why are we so concerned about these worms? Unfortunately they have the potential of changing our soil structure by damaging plant roots, changing water holding capacity of the soil and depleting available nutrients in the soil. Jumping worms are found in the top 3-4 inches of the soil and in leaf litter. Their appetite for organic matter is voracious and their rapid reproductive rate creates a threat to our forest floors and native environments.

What about our residential lawns? Landscapers have been known to reapply mulch numerous times in a growing season because the worms have consumed it so quickly. They LOVE the organic matter until it's all gone.....and yes, they have been known to destroy lawns! You can pull up your grass like a carpet and find the worms below. Grubs in your lawn will feed on grass roots, but jumping worms turn the soil into the texture of discarded coffee grounds which does not support the root structure. The soil can no longer retain moisture as it passes through too quickly and it lacks the nutrients to support the health of the plant. Nothing will grow in this type of soil.

What's a gardener to do!??

Well, researchers are still searching for the best way to control this creature. For right now, if you spot a jumping worm, grab your gloves and a clear plastic bag, secure the worms in the bag, placing the bag in the sun until they die and throw the bag away! Obviously a temporary fix!

Jumping Worms, continued

Researchers do know that heat exposure >104 degrees Fahrenheit will kill the egg cases. In Illinois, compost producers are required to heat their products beyond this temperature. With compost and mulch being the prime food source of these worms be careful of your mulch and compost sources!

The Arboretum at the University of Wisconsin, after a pilot study, continues to explore using an organic, low nitrogen fertilizer (3-0-1) called Early Bird. This is a fertilizer specifically used in the golf course industry. It showed promising results due to the fertilizer's other ingredient, tea seed oil (cameillia) which contains saponins, a toxin that plants produce. They continue to research the product.

You may also want to beef up your soil care. Since you know your soil fertility is going to be compromised if you have these worms you may want to add compost and organic matter to the soil more often. Just remember to proceed with CAUTION! Pick your brand of mulch/compost from a reputable dealer. You may want to dump the contents into a bucket/bin outdoors for a couple of weeks before using it in your garden. Clean your equipment and carefully inspect nursery plants before placing them in your garden beds.

Unfortunately once you have the worms in your soil they may be here to stay. We just need to figure out how to live with them. I wonder if anybody knows if chickens feast on Jumping Worms??!!!

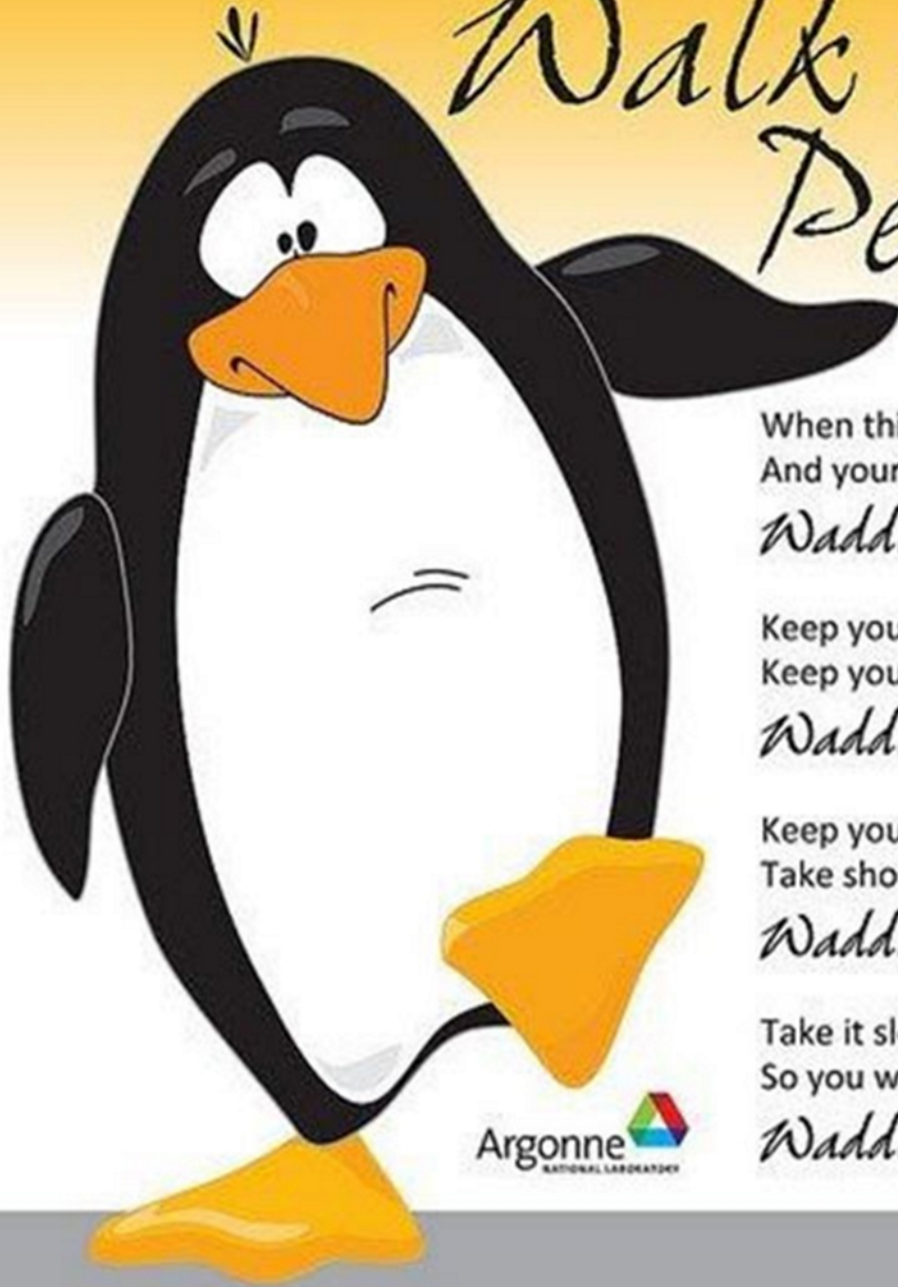
BEV KRAMS, COOK CO. MASTER GARDENER

<http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=827>
https://ipm.illinois.edu/first_detector/Jumping_Worm_Handout.pdf
<https://www.mywebtimes.com/2019/10/08/jumping-worms-threat-or-not/a34304n/>
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/ctlifeinvasivejumping-worm-illinois-tt-0814-20190814-m7rkc7vcezgejgg3kt3rb6vrvy-story.html>
https://chippewa.com/dunnconnect/news/local/unwelcomeguestsbeware-theemergenceofdreadedjumpingworms/article_94205615-469a-50f1-bb23-3455248f26f7.html
<https://arboretum.wisc.edu/news/arboretum-news/research-update-what-are-we-learning-about-jumping-worms/>
<https://awaytogarden.com/invasive-asian-jumping-worms-a-2019-research-update-with-brad-herrick-of-uw-madison/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ONE AND ALL!!!!

Denise Britton, Julia Bruett, Pat Dennehey, Margaret Gray, Kathy Hendricksen, Bev Krms, Cindy Kriemelmeyer, Connie Landwehr, Mike Relaz, Daine Lanigan, Sue Scheetz, and Kathy Wolan,

Walk like a Penguin!



When things get cold and icy,
And your path looks kind of dicey,
Waddle on!

Keep your toes all pointed out-y,
Keep your knees all loosey-goosey,
Waddle on!

Keep your hands outside your pockets,
Take short steps so you won't rocket,
Waddle on!

Take it slowly. Holey-moley,
So you won't fall down and roll-y,
Waddle on!

Argonne 
NATIONAL LABORATORY

A GARDEN IS A FRIEND
THAT YOU CAN VISIT *anytime*

SOMETIMES
I WET MY *plants*



**Josephine Perez,
Honorary Club Member**

SALT is a SERIOUS environmental pollutant. Salt corrodes metal and damages concrete. It will cause the pads of your pets feet to crack and dry out if you do not rinse them and may cause health problems if the deicers are ingested when pets lick their paws. Salts also damage plants in your garden, your lawn and your soils by making it more dense and less permeable to water movement. Salt you put down this year may affect plant growth this spring and for years to come without adequate rainfall to remove it from the soil.

The BEST IDEA: A good shovel will clear your drive while giving you a great workout! It's the most natural, environmentally friendly and green way to get rid of ice and snow this winter.

Snow Sowing

Even if the snow is covering your site, winter is a **GREAT** time to sow **NATIVE SEEDS!** The seeds will have time to **STRATIFY** through a natural freeze-thaw cycle. This stratification process is needed for most native seeds to germinate in the **SPRING.** Start **SNOW SOWING!!** Don't put off your seeding until next year. **DO IT NOW!!**

(The photo on right is after one hour of **SNOW SOWING,** Prairie Moon Nursery)

