



# Arlington Heights garden club

Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

February 2016

*Growing Together*

*Carol Elliott, Editor*

## **Water Management in the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District**

**Monday, February 22**

President Mariyana Spyropoulos, of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be addressing the issue of flooding after heavy rains in Arlington Heights, and what is being done with the excess storm water to prevent property damage. She will be discussing the use of free rain barrels for residents to conserve rainwater and to reduce flood damage. One other area of her presentation will be the proper disposal of medications and why these medications are showing up in our Lake Michigan water today.

President Spyropoulos was elected in 2010. She was elected as Chairman of Finance in 2013; Board President in January 2015 and she serves as Chairman of 3 committees. She has a law degree from The John Marshall Law School and an MBA from Loyola University Chicago. With her attorney experience, she brings a unique legal and business perspective combined with environmental activism and has spoken to many community groups on environmental and water issues.

## **Greetings from Our President**

What a great January program on flower design from Mariano's! I learned so many tips and was thrilled to win a vase of roses. This month's program is a joint effort organized by our Program and Conservation Committees. Bring a guest to learn about water issues in our community and the Arl. Hts program on prescription drug disposal.

We will be starting the process to fill a few open positions on our board slate to be voted on in April and installed in May. We need a few members to assist 2 board members to make nominations. Please consider getting more involved in the Garden Club by taking a leadership position and/or becoming an active part of a committee. We have some chair positions that are held by veterans who are willing to continue but would like to have someone shadow them to eventually take over.

Our Garden Walk planning committee is getting things ready for our big event and welcomes new members Adrienne Martz and Mike Relaz. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 12 and watch for more details on how you can help our major fundraiser. We need everyone's assistance!

Lastly, our board has \$300 in our budget to support charities that complement facets of the Garden Club's mission, for example other gardens, educational programs, or conservation groups. If you have a 501C3 organization that you would like considered, please e-mail me at [kshend@aol.com](mailto:kshend@aol.com).

*Kathy Hendricksen, President*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
Kathy Hendricksen

Vice President  
Donna Soens

Secretary  
Bev Krams

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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

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Newsletter  
Carol Elliott

Scholarship and Website  
Mike Dennehey

## February Hostesses

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

*Pat Dennehey*

*Pete Landwehr*

*Josephine Perez*

## January Program

I met the manager of the Arlington Hts. Mariano's store (relative to another group to which I belong). During our conversation I mentioned the presentation by Jan Budris and how much I enjoyed it. He was glad to hear it, and said that they have a website where customers can acknowledge associates who go "above and beyond." Then those people can be acknowledged at the store meetings. I emailed my comments today, but wondered if others from the club would also want to express their thoughts. The email address is: [Marianos@xperience.com](mailto:Marianos@xperience.com)

Claudia McGrath



## Baskets and Fillers Needed!

We are in need of baskets and filler items for the baskets that will be raffled off at the Unique Boutique that is part of our Garden Walk on June 12. Bring items to the meetings or drop them off at my house. We will also need members to help assemble the baskets in early June at my house. Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you, Pat Dennehey

Pictures from Our January Program!



## GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - WINTER 2016

Feb. 13 thru Mar. 13 - "Month-Long Orchid Show" - at Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe

Feb. 17 - "First Detector Workshop" - hosted by the University of Illinois Extension - topics include insect invaders, exotic weed act, and what's new in the pest world - in Grayslake, \$40 - register at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=13267>

Feb. 20 - "Seed Starting" - by Kim Ellson, U of I Extension Educator - 1 PM at Crabtree Nature Center, 3 Stover Road, Barrington Hills, 847-381-6592 register by phone in advance

Feb. 20-21 - "Orchid Show & Sale" - sponsored by the Batavia Orchid Society at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, Ill.

Feb. 25 & 27 - Pruning 101 - 10:00 AM at Knoppers Nursery, 1801 N. Rand Road, Palatine,

Feb. 27 - "Seed Starting" - by Kim Ellson, U of I Extension Educator - 11 AM at River Trail Nature Center, 3120 N. Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook. 847-824-8360 register in advance

Mar. 1 - GCI Tri-Council Annual Meeting, hosted by Landscape Design Council - program will be "The Gardens at Cantigny" presented by Craig Kruckenberg, Horticulturist and Landscape Architect from Cantigny Gardens - at Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont

Mar. 5 - "A Wealth of Possibilities for Native Shade Gardens" sponsored by Citizens For Conservation - 10:00 AM at Barrington Village Hall

Mar. 8 - "District IX GCI Annual Meeting" - at Cotillion Banquets in Palatine

Mar. 12 - "Spring Forward - Celebrate Gardening" - Guest Speakers Joe Lamp'l (host of the TV show 'Growing a Greener World') and Roger Swain (host of the TV show 'Victory Garden') - sponsored by the St. John, Indiana, Garden Club - in Saint John, Indiana

Mar. 12-20 - "Chicago Is" - The Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago

Mar. 19-20 - "Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Display and Sale" at the Regenstein Center at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Apr. 9 - "Illinois African Violet Society Spring Annual Show and Sale" - in the Center Court at Golf Mill Mall in Niles, Ill.

Apr. 9 - "2016 Gardenfest" - choose from 30 breakout sessions - keynote speaker is Kerry Ann Mendez, author of "The Right-Size Flower Garden," "The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Top Ten Lists" and "Top Ten Lists for Beautiful Shade Gardens" - sponsored by the Univ. of Ill. Master Gardeners - the cost is \$45 (including lunch) - at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Ill. Register at: [mchenry.edu/gardenfest](http://mchenry.edu/gardenfest)

Apr. 9 - "Plant Conservation in a Changing World" sponsored by Citizens For Conservation - 10:00 AM at Barrington Village Hall.

# Amaryllis Care

Amaryllis are flowers grown from bulbs indoors in the winter. They put on a showy flower display in the winter time when not much else is blooming. The blooms can be 6" or more across and come in shades of red, orange, pink, yellow, white, striped or variegated. The bigger the bulb, the more flowers and stalks it may produce.

Amaryllis are easy to grow. Pick a pot that is 1-2" wider at the top than the bulb since they like to be slightly pot bound. The pot should be twice as tall as the bulb to allow room for the roots and heavy (maybe clay or ceramic) so it won't tip over when it gets top heavy with blooms or leaves. Fill the pot about 2/3 full with a well drained potting soil. Soak the bulb's roots in a shallow pan of lukewarm water for a few hours to help re-hydrate the bulb. Plant the bulb in the pot so about half of the bulb is above the soil line making sure that the bulb does not touch the side of the pot. Tamp the soil around the bulb and roots, then water and set in a bright spot at about 65-70 degrees. The flower stalk should start growing after a few weeks. The leaves occasionally appear at the same time as the flower stalk but most often after blooming. Once the flower stalk emerges, you should turn the pot a quarter turn daily so the stalk grows straight rather than towards the light. Once the bloom appears, it will last longer if kept in a cooler 60-65 degree environment.

After the amaryllis bulb finishes blooming, continue to care for it and it will produce blooms for many years to come. Once the flower fades, cut off the flower and stalk just above the bulb but retain the leaves, which will recharge the bulb for next year. Put it in a sunny window and continue to provide water and fertilizer every few weeks to a month. In late May, after danger of frost has passed, put it outside for the summer in partial shade. You can leave the pot on a patio or bury it in the ground up to the rim. If it is a porous clay pot, bury the rim below ground to avoid moisture wicking away from the bulb. Amaryllis prefer morning sun with some protection from the hot afternoon sun. The leaves initially may be floppy so will benefit from some sort of support but new leaves will grow stronger and more upright as the summer progresses. You can also keep the pot indoors for the summer on a sunny window sill. Around the first of August, stop fertilizing and gradually reduce watering. Towards the end of August, cease watering to encourage dormancy. The bulb needs to go through a dormant rest period before it can re-bloom. Around September 1st, the leaves should turn yellow and die. Cut the dead leaves off 1-2" above the bulb. Bring the potted bulb into the house and store in a cool, dark place for 6-8 weeks (40-50 degrees if possible), maybe in a basement, unheated crawl space or covered window well. Placing the pot on its side encourages dormancy.

Next winter, bring it back into a sunny, warm location and begin watering to get it to bloom again. Keep the soil moist, not soggy. Don't let the bulb dry out, especially once it starts to flower. It takes about 6 weeks to bloom from the time you start watering again so you can time flowering by counting back from the date you want it to bloom. For Christmas, start watering in early Nov. The reasons why bulbs fail to bloom include: bulb too young/small; too short a dormant period; or too high of a temperature during or after dormancy. Well cared-for amaryllis bulbs increase in size each year, and may send out new bulbs. You can separate daughter bulbs while dormant and plant in a separate pot to eventually grow into another blooming amaryllis.

By Pete Landwehr, Master Gardener, University of Illinois Extension

Provided by Master Gardeners through the Master Gardener Answer Desk, Friendship Park Conservatory, Des Plaines.  
Call (847) 298-3502 or email [northcookmg@gmail.com](mailto:northcookmg@gmail.com).



## SAVE THE DATE

**GCI – District IX Thirty-Seventh  
Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

The *Four Seasons Garden Club of Barrington* and  
*Northbrook Garden Club* are pleased to host  
the 2016 Annual Meeting and Luncheon

**“Bees... Blossoms... & Butterflies”**

at The Cotillion, 360 South Creekside Drive, Palatine

## Letter of Thanks

Greetings,

I apologize for the delay in sending this email. As a patron of the AHML and the AH Senior Center, I want to thank all of you for the beautiful Xmas trees and decorations. Every year my visit to both places during the holidays is made special because of everything that your club does. Please know that you are appreciated.

My warmest new year wishes to you all.

Joseph Fabits

## Garden Club Offering \$1500 Scholarship for 2016

Are you or a family member thinking of gaining education in the horticultural area? Here are two opportunities from our club for educational assistance!

### Academic Scholarship

The Arlington Heights Garden Club will award one \$1500 scholarship for students pursuing study in the fields of horticulture, botany, forestry, agriculture, marine biology, or environmental sciences. Other fields will be given consideration if applicant can demonstrate a working experience in the horticulture/floral/nursery community over the past year. Applicants must be residents of Arlington Hts or adjoining communities, have a C average, and be pursuing enrollment for the 2016-2017 school term in a vocational / technical school, community college or university. Grad school also qualifies.

Proceeds from the Garden Walk, scheduled for June 12th this year, are used to fund the scholarship program. One outstanding student was awarded a scholarship for the 2015-2016 school year.

Scholarship applications are due on May 1st, with recipients announced the first week of June. Application information is available at all Arlington Heights High School Career Center offices or can be downloaded from the AHGC website at: [www.ahgardenclub.com](http://www.ahgardenclub.com). Please contact Mike Dennehey at [dennehm@wowway.com](mailto:dennehm@wowway.com) or 847-255-0133 for information.

### Personal Development Award

As a member of the AH Garden Club, are you interested in taking some short courses with a gardening theme? You can register for any course given by the Chicago Botanic Gardens, Morton Arboretum, evening school at a high school or college, GCI, or local nurseries and AHGC will pay for one half the cost up to \$200. If interested, please read the information and download the Personal Development Award application from the Scholarship Page on the club website at [www.ahgardenclub.com](http://www.ahgardenclub.com). If you have any questions please contact Mike Dennehey at [dennehm@wowway.com](mailto:dennehm@wowway.com) or 847-255-0133 for information.