



Arlington Heights garden club

Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

January 2016

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

Tips and Tricks for Exquisite, Easy Flower Arrangements!

by Jan Budris, of MARIANO's on
Monday, January 25



Think Spring! This presentation will provide tips to take grocery store flowers from basic to exquisite arrangements. Selection of flowers, containers, ribbons and other accessories will be the focus of the presentation. Learn these techniques and see how to brighten your winter months with flowers.

Jan Budris is a floral designer for MARIANO's. She manages the floral department in the Arlington Heights store. Her area of expertise is the arrangement of a variety of live flowers and greenery.

Greetings from Our President

We're now experiencing a more "normal" winter after a mild start that had some spring plants pushing up in December! This is the time to look at seed catalogs to plan for spring gardening.

Speaking of planning, the Garden Walk Committee had our first meeting on January 11th to plan our Garden Walk on June 12th. We could use a couple more volunteers so please let me know if you are willing. Our meetings are the second Monday of the month from 6:00-7:00 and includes a pizza dinner. If you can't help plan, we would appreciate any help you are willing to give one of our sub-committees.

Thanks to Barb Franks for organizing a fun and informative Wreath and Thanksgiving Arrangement workshop with assistance from Adrienne Martz. We appreciate Josephine Perez and all the other club members who helped to spread cheer with holiday trees at Village Hall, the Senior Center, and the Library. Another big thank you to Aggie Prochaska for a wonderful holiday party with great food and fun prizes, to Kathy Wolan for the centerpieces, and to all attendees for delicious dishes. Thanks to Nancy Asquini Dean for taking the club's food donations to Wheeling Township. See their letter of gratitude.

I will look forward to seeing you at the meeting on January 25 to learn about flower arranging. I hope to hear that a few of you will assist with the Garden Walk which is our biggest fundraiser and a great opportunity to feature gardens in our community.

Kathy Hendricksen

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January Hostesses

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

Bev Krams

Adrienne Martz

Barb Franks

Wreath Workshop

The Wreath Workshop back in November was great! Everyone who came learned a lot about making wreaths and flower arranging. Thanks to Artistic Chair, Barb Franks for organizing and hosting such a wonderful event!



Thanks to Our Tree Decorators!

I want to thank the club members who helped create tree ornaments and helped to decorate the 3 and 1/2 trees we decorate each year. Aggie Prochaska not only created ornaments; she also helped to decorate all three full size trees. The other members were Suzanne Scheetz, Claudia McGrath, and Marie Berhinig who have created ornaments for many years and Kathy Wolan, Marie Berhinig, Barb Scullion, and Mike Relaz who helped to decorate the library tree.

Thank you all. It would not get done without all your help.

Josephine

Pictures from Our Holiday Party!

We had a wonderful time at the Holiday Party in December!



GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - WINTER 2016

Jan. 30 - "Forcing Winter Branches" - 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

Jan. 31 - "Forcing Winter Branches" - by Kim Ellson, U of I Extension Educator - 1 PM at Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest, 708-366-6530 register by phone in advance

Feb. 6 - "Mosquito Abatement at Home" sponsored by Citizens For Conservation - 10:00 AM at Barrington Village Hall

Feb. 6 - "Midwest Perennial Plant Association Symposium: Inspired by Nature" - review the latest books, plants, and get great strategies for the 2016 growing season - at Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL

Feb. 11 - "Herbs" - A presentation by Sara Rose, a Naturalist and member of the staff of Trailside Museum of Natural History in River Forest, Illinois, - on herbs, their history, their uses, and on their use in making salves and lotions. Des Plaines Garden Club meeting at 11:00AM at Frisbie Senior Center, Des Plaines, IL

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

Feb. 17 - "First Detector Workshop" - hosted by the University of Illinois Extension - topics include insect invaders, the exotic weed act, and what's new in the pest world - in Grayslake, IL

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, IL

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

Save Your Stamps!

Please save commemorative stamps from your holiday mail and bring them to the January meeting. The sale of these stamps are used to purchase wildlife habitat.

Remember!

Our 2016 Garden Walk is June 12. We need volunteers to help!

HOME AND GARDENING TIPS

Seed catalogs will soon be arriving. Make your selections, and order seeds early. Don't wait to order because many of the popular varieties sell out early. When ordering, watch for words like 'vigorous, spreading, or re-seeds'. These are red-flag signals that those plants may turn into a whole lot of work!

Read the notes you made about your garden last year, and look at the photos you took of the different areas of the garden - at different times of the year. Make notes about which areas need 'something', and just when! Start doing the research early to fill those gaps. Don't wait until June and race out and buy whatever is left over at the garden centers, even though it may not be appropriate. If you did not make a garden journal and take photos (date them!) last year (including winter!), plan on doing so this year!



Now is a good time to very lightly fertilize indoor plants actively growing in natural light. A slow release type, like Osmocote, works well at this time, at $\frac{1}{2}$ strength or less. Later, as days lengthen and plants begin to grow more, you can switch to a regular fertilizer. Plants grown indoors under artificial light can generally be fertilized during winter with $\frac{1}{4}$ strength of an appropriate fertilizer.

Take a long, hard look at those gift plants that you received during the Holidays. Do you really want to nurse that poinsettia along for a whole year, only to have it not turn red? When the flower on that amaryllis fades, just set the pot in a hidden place until spring, then plant the bulb in the garden - it can be dug and potted up in the fall and it will bloom again, indoors! Enjoy cyclamen, cinerarias, and kalanchoe while they are pretty, then send them to the compost heap when they are not! And the cute little hydrangea that you got is not hardy here, so it will do no good to try to get it to last until it can be planted out of doors - it won't bloom next summer and won't make it through the following winter. This isn't to say that with a lot of luck and a lot of work, you just may get one of these to rebloom, but the chances are rather slim.

If you buy a bouquet of flowers when the temperature is near freezing or less, ask that they double bag it, and enclose the top. It only takes seconds for those petals to freeze as you are walking to the car, and you end up with blackened mush!

by Bob Nicholson, Master Gardener - University of Illinois Extension

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, IL



Letter of Thanks from Wheeling Township

Dear Nancy Asquini-Dean and Arlington Heights Garden Club,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the staff, and the residents of Wheeling Township, we would like to express our gratitude for your donation of food and household items on November 24, 2015.

Every donation makes a big difference in someone's life and brings relief during a time of need. The Wheeling Township Emergency Fund, a 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization, is only able to provide so many services to our community because of the generosity of donors like you.

Thank you for assisting us with fulfilling our mission of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Sincerely,
Michael B. Schroeder
Supervisor