

Arlington Heights garden club

February 2019

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

Responsible Outdoor Lighting
February 25th, 7pm Social, 8pm Program,
Village Hall

**Speaker: Drew Carhart, IL Coalition for
Responsible Lighting**

It's Conservation Month!

In the natural world, the nighttime hours are just as important as the day. But we do not often pause to think about how our artificial lighting is affecting the rest of the living things we share the planet with, or whether we could adapt our practices to cause fewer unintended side effects.

Drew Carhart, board member of the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting, will provide eye-opening information on the topic, and demonstrate how making good choices in out lighting practices can both save energy and minimize negative impacts on nature.

Greetings from Our President

Whew! We made it through the record breaking cold and are still standing!! It is winter, and we gardeners have changed our focus from outdoor to indoor activities such as planning, ordering seeds and plants, and sharpening tools. But spring will be here soon. You may have seen the following quote from that great philosopher of all wisdom, Snoopy, who said, "I am not going outside until the temperature is above my age." -Charles M. Schulz

One of the activities which is in full swing for our Garden Club, is planning for the 2019 Annual Garden Walk and Boutique, scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd. We have commitments from 6 homeowners and one institution to have their wonderful gardens and landscape on our walk. This means we will need many club members to have this large event run smoothly. In behalf of Kathy Hendricksen, event chair, I would like to invite everyone to be a part of our major fund raiser. There are many things to do ahead of the day and on that day. We have jobs that involve sitting, ones that involve counting and selling, or driving stakes and directing people, etc. Please consider volunteering a few hours to help our club as we raise funds for our scholarships and many civic and conservation projects. Here is a little tease, we may have an exciting announcement next month about a new project of which the Board is very excited. Stay tuned and keep watching that thermometer.

Jim Spannagel, President

June in Illinois: 15+ hours of daylight each day.



Can't we play while the sun provides the light, instead?

It's time to re-think lighting.

Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting - www.illinoislighting.org

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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.

Diane and Paul Culhane,

Pam McVoy,

and Josephine Perez

Welcome to Our Newest Member!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest club member Daniella Sents. Welcome, Daniella! We look forward to meeting you and gardening with you!

Please introduce yourselves to Daniella at our next meeting and share your love of gardening.

Monarch Butterfly News

Both good and disappointing news about monarch butterflies has emerged this winter. In case you don't know, there are two separate populations of monarchs, one east of the Rocky Mountains and one west of the Rockies.

According to the Xerces Society that helps monitor the population west of the Rockies, the number of monarchs west of the Rockies is drastically down, which is very disappointing to hear.

However, according to Monarch Watch that helps monitor the population east of the Rockies (the population that our club helps to support), the number of monarchs overwintering in Mexico is the highest since 2007. Our efforts are helping!

Gaining Garden Knowledge Winter 2019

Feb. 9 thru Mar. 24 - "In The Tropics: The Orchid Show" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe

Feb 15 or 16 - 10-11am Chalet Nursery "Orchids 101" Free

Feb 16- Natural Landscaping Seminar; McHenry College www.thewppc.org/seminar.html

Feb 16- Naturally Beautiful Garden Conference; Triton College R Bld. 12-5pm <https://westcook.wildones.org/>

Feb 16-9:30-11am CFC Citizens for Conservation "Adding Value to your Landscape, Barrington Village Hall \$10

Feb 22 or 23-10-11am Chalet Nursery "Winter Tree and Shrub Trimming" Free

Feb 23- Barnswallow: A Wild Bird Concern Raptor Show, 1pm Register @ www.hawthorngardens.net

Feb 23 - "Rainforest Rhythms" - at Olbrich Botanical Garden in Madison, WI

Feb 23 - 9-6pm Wild Things Conference D.E.Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, <http://www.wildthingscommunity.org/>

Feb 23-7:30-2:30pm Gardener's Pathway Kiswaukee College, \$50 web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo

Feb. 9 thru Mar. 24 - "In The Tropics: The Orchid Show" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe

Mar. 2 thru 24 - "Spring Flower Show" - at Olbrich Botanical Garden in Madison, WI

Mar. 12 - "District IX Annual Meeting" - at Cotillion Banquets in Palatine, Ill.

March 9, 1-3 p.m. \$20 Cocoa in the Conifers: Join an Arboretum expert for a cup of hot cocoa and a winter stroll through the Conifer Collection. Observe the variety of textures and colors and learn interesting facts about the members of this incredibly diverse collection.

March 9-9:30-11am CFC Citizens for conservation " Favorite Native Plants" Barrington Village Hall \$10

Mar. 20 thru 24 - "Chicago Flower and Garden Show" - at Navy Pier in Chicago, Ill. March 24 Trip to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show www.hawthorngardens.net \$60 Register:

Mar. 21 - "The Orchid Show", a six week long orchid extravaganza at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill. A late lunch will be at the Pavilion Restaurant in Northbrook, Ill.

Mar. 23-24 - "Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show & Sale" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Apr. 6 - "Gardenfest 2019" - hosted by the McHenry County Master Gardeners - at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Ill.



Making "Black Gold"

NO longer enjoy trudging out into the yard to recycle YOUR kitchen scraps in the compost pile?

HERE'S HOW TO HANDLE THEM!!

During good weather, I take kitchen scraps out to the compost pile knowing that I am making "black gold" for my plants next year. However, when the weather turns colder, I start using my worm bin. Different process but the same concept. Instead of bacteria and microorganisms in the compost pile, I let worms do the work. The end result is the same. Worm bins are easy, inexpensive, and shouldn't smell if done right.

Start with a plastic bin at least 2' x 2' x 8" deep (20+ gallons). For larger families, you can utilize a bigger bin. Drill air holes in the lid and upper sides using a 1/2" drill bit. Tear black and white newspaper into 1" wide strips, wet, wring out until it is as damp as a wrung-out sponge and fluff. This becomes the worm bedding. Buy red wigglers at an online garden supply company or your local bait shop. They are small but do well in captivity and eat their weight in food scraps every day - night crawlers don't do well in this environment. Keep in the basement or under the sink.

Start by adding a cup of food initially and add more as the first batch is consumed and the worm population expands. Throw in a handful of garden soil (not potting soil) to add grit that worms need for digestion. Bury food in the middle of the bedding material as worms do not like light and will not eat food on the surface. Some foods that work well in a worm bin: raw vegetables, fruits, lettuce, grains, beans, bread (no butter or margarine), crushed eggshells, tea bags, coffee grounds and filters, oatmeal, wet pasta, and peelings. Do not add meat, dairy, oily or spicy foods, broccoli or whole carrots, onions, garlic, citrus, salty foods, sugar, vinegar, or seeds. Worms do not "chew" food but rather dissolve them before eating so the smaller the pieces, the quicker they will be consumed. Use finished worm compost the same as other compost.

--*Pete Landwehr*
Master Gardener



More Opportunities for Learning

Friendship Park Conservatory

847-298-3500, 395 W. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines

Pruning Basics-When and How?

Do you have an overgrown hedge of forsythia, privet, or other deciduous shrubs? Have you been overwhelmed with keeping lilacs and hydrangeas in bloom and looking vibrant? What's the best time of year for pruning? Are you familiar with where to place your cuts? Come join this hands-on workshop as we teach pruning principles. Please dress for the weather, as we will go outside to practice the techniques that are taught in class. If possible, please bring your pruners, loppers or hand folding saw.

Sat 3/9 10:30am-12pm \$15/20 Code: 36095

NEW! Re-Potting Party!

Do you have houseplants that have outgrown their pots? Is it time to split up 'plant pups'? Maybe an overgrown plant needs to be cut back, but you aren't sure how to do it properly? We will provide you with the proper planting mix and fertilizer along with hands on demonstrations to re-pot your plants. With a selection of containers to choose from, give your plant(s) a new home. Don't miss this hands-on plant party! Basic fee includes repot-ting 2 medium plants. Additional medium sized plants \$5 each, large plants \$10 each.

Sat 3/16 10:30am-12pm \$10/15 Code: 36093 36094

NEW! Square Foot Gardening-Cool Crops

How early can you start broccoli, kale, spinach, beets or lettuce? Is your growing space so small that you feel an edible garden is impossible? Join us as we teach square foot garden techniques for cool crops. We'll send you home with healthy plant starts and garden tips to grow your own edibles in a very small space. Your home-grown foods will add color and nutrition to your meal planning!

Sat 4/6 10:30am-12pm \$20/25 Code: 36096

Harper College Nature Classes CE. HARPERCOLLEGE.EDU

Monarch Butterfly Rearing 4/6/19

Backyard Bat Housing 4/13/19

Garden Bench Workshop 4/27/19

Illinois Heirloom Gardening 5/18/19

Arlington Heights Garden Club offering three \$2,000 Scholarships for 2019

The Arlington Heights Garden Club will award three \$2,000 scholarships for students pursuing study in the fields of horticulture, botany, forestry, agriculture, marine biology, or environmental sciences. However, other fields of interest will be given consideration. Extra credit is given if an applicant can demonstrate a working experience in the horticulture, floral, nursery, or farming community. There are two types of residency requirements; for residents of Arlington Heights or adjoining communities and for applicants living within a 20-mile radius of Arlington Heights.

All applicants must have a C or above GPA average, and pursuing enrollment for the 2019-2020 school term in a vocational / technical school, community college or university. Grad school also qualifies. Scholarship applications are due on May 1st, with recipients announced the first week of June. Application forms for residents of Arlington Heights or adjoining communities are available at all District 214 High School Career Center offices, Saint Viator High School and Christian Liberty Academy and can be downloaded from the AHGC website: ahgardenclub.com on the Community/ Scholarship page. Please note a list of college fields of study and a list of local schools for students to consider is also available for download.

Proceeds from the annual Garden Walk, scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd this year, and donations to the AHGC, are used to fund this scholarship program. Detailed information is available on our AHGC website, ahgardenclub.com or contact Mike Dennehey at dennehm@wowway.com or 847-255-0133.



CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUTSIDE!!!!



Gardening in February? COME ON!!! But wait.....

1. How about reviewing what did not work out for you last year. Overgrown shrubs that need to be trimmed, crumbling sidewalk that needs to be fixed, a few plants/shrubs that need to be moved because they were once in full sun and now they are in full shade. All need to be addressed and you can start your plan now!
2. Get out there and check for winter damage. Prune broken branches damaged by the wind storms we had during the winter.
3. Read those seed and garden catalogs and check on the new techniques and tools that are on the market that would make your gardening chores easier.
4. Remember those LONG HOT HUMID days in July and August? Investigate what is recommended for our changing climate (Zone 5b) so you are not spending another summer watering out in the heat. Think low maintenance. Try NATIVES!!
5. Don't forget to start thinking about planting indoor seed trays. Use this handy seed starting seed calculator to find your seed starting times.
Your frost free date is April 30th***
<https://www.johnnyseeds.com/growers-library/seed-planting-schedule-calculator.html>
6. Pour another cup of Hot Chocolate and wait for SPRING!!

***Farmers Almanac 30% probability!!
BevKrams, Horticultural Committee AHGC