



Arlington Heights garden club

Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

November/December 2015

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

The Gardens of France: From Paris to the Provinces

by Tish Robinson on Monday, Nov. 23



French garden history is illustrious and has formed the basis of worldwide gardening principles since the 17th century. Today a wide variety of styles and trends are represented throughout France, from traditional formal French gardens and parks to appealing kitchen potagers found throughout the French countryside. Memorable images of France's gardening tradition will be showcased in a glorious, flower-filled journey from Paris through the French provinces.

Tish is the owner of The Wonders of France which offers numerous presentations about France and French culture. An independent scholar for over 20 years, Tish has lectured extensively to museums, civic and cultural organizations and garden clubs in the Midwest and New England.

Greetings from Our President

What fun we had in October learning about bats and having the chance to pet Baxter the Skunk!

I look forward to being an armchair traveler to France with this month's program. We will also collect donations for the Wheeling Township Food Pantry and have our own annual club holiday sale where we ask members to bring holiday decor or gift items as donations that they price for sale. It is a fun way for our club to earn some funds and have a chance to do a little shopping!

Many club activities are happening this month with holiday tree ornament making, community tree decorating, and the wreath workshop. Please also mark your calendar to attend our holiday gathering on Monday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Historical Museum. The club provides the main dish and beverages and we ask club members to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share. Bring your significant other for a festive social evening!

On January 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Historical Society we will have our first planning meeting for our largest fundraiser of the year, the Garden Walk on June 12th. Please consider being part of the core planning committee as we would love to have some new faces and new ideas. The meetings will be once a month for an hour on the second Monday of the month and we take turns sharing pizza. Please talk to me at 847-514-0414 or e-mail me at kshend@aol.com if you have an interest.

Kathy Hendricksen

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November Hostesses

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

Sharon Sieg

Kathy Hendrickson

Kathy Wolan

Our Holiday Bazaar

Please bring your gently-used holiday decorations and gifts to donate to our fund raiser at the November meeting. Please price your items to sell. This resale of items helps the club and helps you clean out your closets. Please come early with items so that there will be time to shop before the meeting. The room opens at 6:30.



Remember to Bring Your Food Donations to the November Meeting!

Donations are being taken at the November meeting to be delivered to the Wheeling Township food pantry. Canned goods, packaged goods such as crackers, cookies, flour, sugar, etc. and toiletries and paper products are accepted.

For most needed items, check wheelingtowship.com website. Let's help others have a happy holiday season!

Events Before the November Meeting!

It's holiday decorating time!

Tues. Nov 17th from 10 to 12 noon and from 1 to 3 the workshop to make ornaments for this year's tree will take place in the largest meeting room on the 2nd floor of the library. If you are interested, please phone Josephine (847 392 7943) as she does not have a computer at this time. Please bring a hot glue gun, glue sticks, and scissors to cut paper.

The club will be decorating the Village Hall tree on Thursday, Nov 19th at 10 am. It is not a large tree and will not take long to decorate.

The senior center tree will be decorated on Monday Nov. 23rd at 11 am. We have been upgraded to the lobby tree. They must really like our decorations.

The library tree will be decorated on Saturday, Nov. 25th at 10 am. That is the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

If you are interested in any or all of these events please let Josephine know. Also leave your phone numbers in case she has to get in touch with you quickly.

Club members who have taken part in these activities in the past have enjoyed them and gotten to know each other better, so please come!



Vote and Buy at the Historical Society's Festival of Wreaths

Garden Club member Helen Dawley painted a lovely squirrel baffle as the Garden Club's donation to the Arlington Heights Historical Museum's Festival of the Wreaths which will be held Friday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Nov. 29. Donated wreaths will be sold to raise funds for the museum and to promote community awareness for the historical museum. You can vote for a favorite wreath and buy one too!

The 2015 Wreath Workshop!



Please join us on Saturday November 21st from 1 - 5 pm to learn how to create a beautiful wreath or centerpiece for your home during the holidays. Garlands and some decorative materials will be provided. The cost of the workshop is \$25 for a Garden Club member and \$30 for others to attend, so please bring your friends! Refreshments and appetizers will be served.

If interested in attending please RSVP by Sunday November 15th to:

Barb Franks (847)612-8892 BarbaraFranks@comcast.net
Or
Adrienne Martz (248)302-2490 adrienne.martz@gmail.com

The workshop will be held at: 908 W. Campbell St., AH, 60005

Please bring the following supplies with you:

- Pruning Shears
- Wreath Form - sold at Joann's, 10 - 15 inches recommended
- Gardening Gloves
- Wreath or Centerpiece Decor
- Wire Cutters
- Green Floral Wire - 26 gauge recommended

Pictures from Our October Meeting!

We had a wonderful time learning about bats and skunks at the October Garden Club meeting!



From Pete Landwehr, Our Horticulture Chair

What To Do With All Those Leaves?

At this time of year, we are all inundated with more leaves than we know what to do with - our neighbors as well as our own. One solution is to use them to improve your soil. In fact, that is the best cure for compacted soil. The ideal soil mixture should be 50% solids (clay, loam and sand), 25% pore spaces to allow air and water to enter the root zone and the last 25% moisture. Soil compaction occurs when there is too little space between granules of soil and can result from foot or vehicle traffic on lawns as well as tilling your garden too much. Excessive tilling creates very fine granules that pack together too closely and does not allow for air and water passage. Tilling should be confined to once or twice a year and should leave the soil a little coarse in texture. Adding sand to loosen the soil actually creates the opposite effect.

Adding organic matter separates the soil granules and acts as a sponge to retain moisture in the soil for use by plants. As the organic matter breaks down by composting or worms, it releases nutrients into the soil to feed the plants. Chopped leaves do not blow around or pack down as much as whole leaves. You can chop leaves up with a mower or leaf vacuum and use as mulch around garden plants to provide winter protection from heaving. Or you can add 2-3" of chopped leaves to your vegetable garden beds and either use it as a top mulch or till it in to the top 3-6" of soil. Either way, the organic material works its way down into the soil over time.

You can also compost the leaves for future use. The ideal compost pile should be about 3' x 3' x 3' with room around the pile to allow for air flow. This size has enough mass for the pile to heat up and start breaking down the organic matter but not so big that it compacts under its own weight. If you use only leaves, it will result in what is called leaf mold. If you mix "greens" (vegetative food waste, grass clippings and garden waste) with "browns" (leaves, straw, wood chips etc), the result is compost. It helps to add a little soil to the pile to introduce beneficial organisms like bacteria and fertilizer to speed up the process. The pile needs some moisture to work properly and you should turn the pile periodically to re-introduce depleted oxygen. Or you can build the compost pile and ignore it. In about a year, you should still have compost without a lot of effort. Both leaf mold and compost will improve the soil. So don't pay the village to haul away your valuable leaves - put them to use in your yard and garden to improve your soil.



We Need Suggestions for Club Donations

Each year our club makes donations to garden-related groups that promote the care of the Earth and garden knowledge. If you know of such a group, please come to the November meeting with your suggestion.

GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - FALL 2015

Nov. 20 thru Jan. 2, 2016 - "Illumination: Tree Lights at the Morton Arboretum" - in Lisle, Ill.

Nov. 20, 25 & 28 - "Winter Container Workshop" - create your own winter container \$44 at Lurvey's Nursery, Des Plaines, Ill.

Nov. 20 thru Dec. 24 - "Christkindlmarket" - Chicago's open air European Holiday Market and Festival - at Daley Plaza in Chicago, Ill.

Nov. 20 thru Jan. 2, 2016 - "Illumination: Tree Lights" - trees glow with dazzling LED lights and respond to your touch and voice - at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois

Nov. 21 thru Jan. 3, 2016 - "Gingerbread Land" - a holiday flower show - at Mitchell Park Conservatory "The Domes" in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Nov. 21-22 - "Holiday Demonstration Weekend" - different topics every 30 minutes at Chalet Nursery, Wilmette, Ill.

Nov. 27 thru Jan 3, 2016 - "Wonderland Express" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

Nov. 29 thru Jan. 6, 2016 - "All Aglow" - see the holiday lights and floral display inside the warm tropical conservatory, and the outdoor grounds are decorated for the season - at Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens in Rockford, Ill.

Dec. 1-5 - "Evergreen Winter Container Workshop" - \$45 at Chalet Nursery, Wilmette, Ill.

Dec. 5 - "Basic Pruning for Homeowners" - \$45 at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Ill.

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.

FREE!

Four 10" x21" seed starter trays with lids and 71 peat pellets. Please call Pat and Mike Dennehey if you are interested. 847-255-0133