



Arlington Heights garden club

Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

March 2016

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

Critters in Your Garden

Monday, March 28

**Speaker: Rebecca Fyffe of ABC Humane
Wildlife Control and Prevention**

Is your garden suffering from unwanted pests or wildlife? ABC Humane Wildlife Control and Prevention will discuss their practice of Integrated Pest Management, an eco-friendly pest control system that focuses on managing insects and rodents through monitoring and environmental modifications in order to use as few pesticides as possible.

ABC Humane Wildlife Control and Prevention is an Arlington Heights animal control and prevention provider. Rebecca Fyffe is a state-certified wildlife expert and mushroom-hunting hobbyist. An all-around nature enthusiast, her honors research at Roosevelt University focused on wildlife disease in urban settings, including in raccoons and bats. In her professional life, she leads public health outreach for the nonprofit Wildlife Control Policy Institute and strategic direction for ABC Humane Wildlife Control and Prevention. She can be heard discussing urban wildlife control as a regular guest on the syndicated radio series Home Improvement USA. Listen to Rebecca on WGN Radio.



Greetings from Our President

It's nice to have enjoyed some spring like weather of late! I hope to see you at our upcoming program about controlling pests and wildlife in our gardens.

Please bring cash or your checkbook to our next meeting as it is the time of year to renew your dues for the upcoming club year. It helps Donna Soens, our membership chair, to get things in promptly. Please express your interest on the membership form which club committees you would like to assist with and to volunteer to bring treats to a meeting.

We will be handing out a volunteer sign up for this year's Garden Walk and hope we can get all club members to assist in some way. Those that volunteer the day of the walk are able to attend for free. We also want you to spread the word to friends and family to attend Sunday, June 12th from 10-4. Tickets are \$10 ahead of time and can be purchased at Village Bank. They will be \$15 the day of the walk. We have several jobs we need help with prior to the walk such as selling tickets at the Farmer's Market, helping set up or clean up, and putting baskets together. Speaking of baskets, please bring baskets or filler items to our upcoming meetings to give Pat Dennehey. We have received donations and some sponsorships from local businesses already. Please let Pat or me know if you have a suggestion for a donor. Barb Franks has potential craft vendors, but if you know any people we should ask, please let Barb or me know.

Kathy Hendricksen, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Publicity
Helen Dawley

Social
Aggie Prochaska

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Newsletter
Carol Elliott

Scholarship and Website
Mike Dennehey

March Hostesses

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

Dianne Steel

Val Solaski

Josephine Perez

Civics Update

We plan to do a little cleanup at the Historical Society Gardens on April 30th. The majority of the cleanup was done by their lawn care people, but there are a few areas that need attention. Planting will be on May 28th. A signup sheet will be passed at the March, April and May meetings just so all can be invited to participate. It is a good way for newcomers to meet other Garden Club members.

Kathy Wolan



Garden Walk Raffle

The solicitation letters have gone out and the donations have started to come in. While the majority of the items arrive in the mail, a few will have to be picked up. We would like to have a couple of members willing to help when needed. Please call 847-255-0133 or email patdennehey@wowway.com. Also:

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

Our February Speakers



Mariyana Spyropoulos
Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District



AH Police Rep discussing
medication disposal

Slate for Upcoming Elections

Here is the slate for even year terms for the board which we will vote on formally at our April meeting and install officers in May:

Conservation: Jim Spannagel
Newsletter: Carol Elliott
Program: Valerie Solaski
Publicity: Helen Dawley
Secretary: Bev Krams
Ways and Means: Adrienne Martz
Website: Mike Dennehey

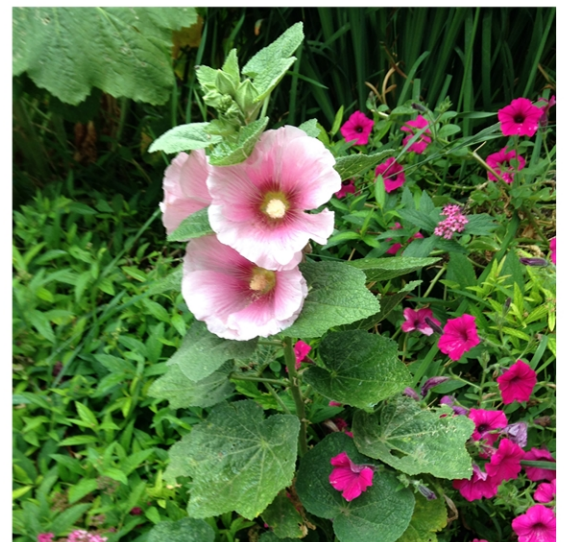
Monarch Butterfly News

Good news: Monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico covered an estimated 10 acres this year, up from less than 3 acres the past three winters. However, they still are a long ways from covering more than 40 acres as they did back in the 1990s.

Bad News: The area where the monarchs spend the winter in Mexico was hit by a severe winter storm March 10, and many butterflies are feared to have died in that storm. Some had already left the area to fly north, and some were still in dense clusters that hopefully protected them. However, the storm certainly impacted the previous good news.

A New Fundraiser!

A new idea we will be trying as an additional fundraiser is to pot up perennials to sell on 6/11 at the Farmer's Market. If we have any leftover, we can also sell them at the Garden Walk. We will still have our club plant exchange in May, which is free for members to trade with one another, but this will be for members to donate extra plants to sell to the public. Please plan on potting up perennials at least a couple weeks before the public sale so they will look well established in the pots. Donations will be able to be dropped off the Museum a couple days before or at the Farmer's Market.



GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - SPRING 2016

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

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

Apr. 18-23 - "Earth Week" - activities throughout the week at Oakton College include nature walks, weeding the woods, working in the community vegetable garden, lectures, and movies - at Oakton College in Des Plaines, Ill.

Apr. 20-21 - GCI "Gardening Studies School, Course 1" - College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn

Apr. 22 - "Earth Day"

Apr. 24-25 - "Garden Clubs of Illinois 2016 Convention - "The World of Hummingbirds" at the Chicago/Naperville Marriott in Naperville.

May 1 - Schaumburg Garden Club Native Plant Sale - Spring Valley Nature Center, 1111 E Schaumburg Rd, Schaumburg, IL. - preorder for best selection at <http://schaumburggardenclub.org/plantsales/native-plant-sale/>

May 2-7 - "National Garden Clubs Convention" - in Grand Rapids, Mich.

May 7-8 - Citizens For Conservation Native Plant Sale - preorder at <http://citizensforconservation.org/native-plant-sales/>

May 10-11 - GCI "Environmental Studies School, Course 2" - in Zion, Ill.

May 11 - "Gardening with Native Flowers and Plants" - Authors Charlotte Adelman and Bernard Schwartz present a program on using native flowers and plants in our gardens to replace non-native ornamentals. Des Plaines Public Library at 7:00PM. The program is free but registration is required. The library phone number is 847-827-5551.

May 12 - "Planning Your Vegetable Garden" - Kim Ellson, Horticulture Educator for the University of Illinois Extension, will tell us everything we need to know to ensure that we have both a rewarding experience and reap a bountiful harvest this season in our home vegetable gardens! Included plant selection, methods of starting vegetables, crop rotation, composting, companion planting, and much more. Des Plaines Garden Club meeting at 11:00AM at Frisbie Senior Center.

Soil Testing

It is recommended that homeowners get a soil test every few years or whenever problems are experienced to check the health of the garden or lawn soil. Over time, soil balance and fertility can change due to a number of causes. A soil test is performed by a licensed laboratory and is used to determine the soil pH as well as levels of organic matter and major and micro nutrient levels. It is important to follow the instructions on how to gather the sample and to provide as much information as possible - like use as a vegetable garden, flower garden, or lawn, as well as any problems you are experiencing. Here are two organizations that will perform soil tests for homeowners for a fee:

Cook County Farm Bureau - for a fee of \$30 (non FS member), they will mail a prepaid UPS carton to your home with forms and instructions. You drop off the box containing the sample at any UPS location. They will analyze the sample and send a report to you with findings and recommendations. If you wish further help, they will make a Master Gardener available to you by phone to discuss the findings and recommendations with you. You can find the details at: <http://www.cookcfb.org/membership/programs/soil-testing>

Lake County Farm Bureau - they offer three levels of testing for a fee of \$30-60 (non FS members) that will do a similar analysis to that listed above. The \$40 test will include organic matter and the \$60 test will include organic matter and micro nutrient levels. I am not aware of any help they offer in terms of interpreting results like Cook County above. The Instructions and form are included in this newsletter. You will either need to drop off the soil sample at their Grayslake facility or ship it to them at your own expense.

Why a soil test?

Soil in its natural state is rarely fertile enough for the best growth of plants. Usually it is necessary to replenish the earth's store of plant nutrients to obtain the most vigorous lawn, the most abundant and brilliant flowers, the prettiest trees and shrubs, and the greatest yield of fresh veggies.

What is the best time to test soil?

Proper sampling is important to obtain accurate results. Samples can be taken any time during the warmer months, when soil temperatures are at least 55 degrees. If the soil is too wet to spade, rototill or hoe, it is generally too wet to take a sample. On the other hand, extremely dry soil should not be sampled either.

How often should I test?

Ideally, soil should be tested every 3-5 years, more frequently with intensive use. Try to sample during the same season each time for best comparison.

Need additional assistance with your lawn or garden questions? Call the Master Gardeners at the University of Illinois Extension office at 847-223-8627!

What is Farm Bureau and how do you join?

Farm Bureau is a voice for farmers and others who have an interest in agriculture. The Lake County Farm Bureau has over 13,000 members, and you can be a member too! There are many benefits for members of our organization, just one of which is discounted pricing on soil testing. Annual dues are \$20 for non-farmers, and \$36 for farmers. Our mission is to "Promote agriculture while serving our members." If you would like to learn more about our organization please feel free to contact our office at 847-223-6506, or check us out at www.lcfb.com.



Save the Date!

June 12

is the date of the club's

Garden Walk!

Please volunteer and

help make the day a success!

Membership dues are due in May and will start being collected at the meetings. Forms will be available at the membership desk or they can be printed from this newsletter. See last page.

Individuals \$25.00
Couples \$40.00

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. Please contact Mike Dennehey at 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. If you have any questions please contact Mike Dennehey at dennehm@wowway.com or 847-255-0133 for information.

Arlington Heights Garden Club
2016-17 Membership Form

I would like to be a member of the Arlington Heights Garden Club. My check is enclosed:

Individual _____ \$25.00 Couple _____ \$40.00

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip code _____

Telephone _____ Email address _____

In order to get involved and meet people, we strongly recommend everyone sign up for at least one or more committees. Please check the committee(s) you would be interested in helping.

Artistic Budget Civics Bylaws
 Conservation Garden Walk Horticulture Social
 Membership Newsletter Program Awards
 Publicity Scholarship Special Events
 Ways & Means Website

Would you be willing to serve as a chair of a committee? Y N
If yes, which committee? _____

I would like to bring treats to be served at a general meeting.

September _____ October _____ November _____ January _____

February _____ March _____ April _____ May _____

"I grant the AHGC permission to use photographs taken of me or including me at Garden Club meetings and events to be used in whole or in part for the purpose of promotion, social media and art for the sole use of the AHGC."

Please bring this form and your check to a general meeting, or mail to:
Donna Soens, Membership Chairman
116 South Harvard Ave
Arlington Heights, IL 60005