



Arlington Heights
garden club
Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

October 2015

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

Incredible Bats

by Daniel and Sharon Peterson

Monday, October 26
Social 7:00 p.m.
Meeting 7:30 p.m.

The "Incredible Bats" program will feature live fruit bats! While Batman is fighting crime in Gotham City our heroic furry flying friends are working to save the rain forests and other eco-systems. Bats are the worlds' only flying mammal. They have two species of bats, Egyptian Fruit Bats and African Straw-colored Fruit Bats. Both species were born and raised in captivity. African Straw-colored bats are the second largest bat species found on the continent of Africa having up to a thirty inch wingspan.

Daniel and Sharon have given presentations on bats for 18 years and owned fruit bats since 2000. They serve as ambassadors for the flying mammals by dispelling myths, detailing their importance in ecosystems and warning of threats to bat survival. Sharon is a public school librarian and a Bat Naturalist. She is trained in the Conservation and Management of Bats through Bat Conservation International.

Greetings from Our President

It's been a lovely season to enjoy some sunshine, fall color and the Super Moon/Lunar Eclipse! The time will go quickly for us to enjoy our gardens for awhile longer before we put them to bed for the winter. Our September speaker was inspiring to give some great ideas on how to stretch the season with our garden and adding unique decor. I hope to see many of you at our October program. I'd also like to thank Bev Krams for organizing our fall perennial plant exchange.

We are gearing up for some additional upcoming activities such as the Wreath Workshop, Holiday Tree decorating at the Library, Senior Center and Village Hall. Please also mark your calendars for our holiday party on Monday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Arl. Hts. Historical Society. The club will provide the drinks and entree and we will have a potluck for appetizers, salads and desserts. Spouses and significant others are welcome to enjoy this festive gathering.

Happy Fall!
Kathy Hendricksen



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October Hostesses

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

Christina Preston

Paula Poncer DeMichael

Barry and Diane Stebel

Our Beautiful Wreath Donation

Garden Club member Helen Dawley painted this 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.

Thanks, Helen!



Collecting Food Donations in November

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!

Pictures from September and October

Our Annual Fall Plant Exchange was held on Saturday October 3 at the commuter parking lot across from the Arlington Heights Historical Museum. Although it was a chilly and windy day, we had fun getting together.

The plant exchange is a great way for our members to build their gardens. You do not need to have plants to exchange to attend these events. We hope to see more of you at the Spring Plant Exchange next year.



From Our September Meeting

President Kathy Hendricksen poses with the September speaker, Jackie Riffice of the Prairie Godmothers.



Fun Garden Sign!



From Our Horticulture Team

Yuck!! Don't eat that!

Oh yes, those cute critters in your yard. Darling Bambi, cute fuzzy squirrels, voles and adorable rabbits!! How cute!! But OH SO destructive!

Those critters are out there spying on you as you put those precious bulbs into the ground. You are anticipating a beautiful flower display in the spring and the critters are anticipating making a meal of your spring dreams!

What's a bulb lover to do??!! Simple. Plant bulbs that do not taste good to those critters. You will love the flower display but those critters will think it is the worst thing they have smelled and tasted! Certain bulbs contain a chemical called lycorine. Animals will stay clear of these types of bulbs because lycorine is a bitter alkaloid that is toxic when eaten.

So go with DAFFODILS! There are up to 200 species and more than 25,000 cultivars of daffodils to choose from. What a great array of colors they come in: peach, salmon, coral, pink, white, yellow, orange, and bicolor. Double daffodils will even add to your pleasure! You will find them in sizes from 4 inches (Miniature Daffodil) to as large as 24 inches (Trumpet Daffodil). You may also want to consider crocus and snowdrop, alliums, hyacinths and crown imperial that are also deer and rodent resistant.

Yes, I know you really love those tulips and crocuses but it is 'candy' for those critters! Consider planting your tulips near your house or where the dog will be visible! For those of you who think you can trick the critters by planting daffodils around those tulips, research has found they will dig up the tulips despite your tricks! Squirrels can smell tulips up to five days after you have planted them!

Want to enjoy the spring bloom as long as possible? Choose varieties that will flower early, middle and late spring. After they finish blooming allow the foliage to die back, approximately eight weeks. Leave them alone until they are dried. You can deadhead the spent blooms but let the flopping foliage yellow and dry out. This allows sunlight and nutrients to enter the bulb. The bulb is your underground food storage to next year's display of not only bloom but also reproduction of the bulb. Bulbs will perennialize and make more bulbs.

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hkmw/downloads/41013.pdf>

Boothbay Register, Spring Flowering Bulbs, Thursday September 10, 2015

<http://www.hgtvgardens.com/bulbs/early-blooming-daffodils#sthash.RTBDokHQ.dpuf>

For critter-free tulips, go to Holland, Michigan next spring for their annual tulip festival. It's about a 3-hour drive, but well worth it!



We Need Volunteers for Fall Visits

We need to start planning for next year's Garden Walk! We are in need of volunteers to visit potential gardens. All you need is to be friendly and a little free time. By visiting gardens, you'll also get great ideas for your own garden. There will be a sign up at the October meeting. Please consider volunteering now, so we can get a jump on next year's Garden Walk!

GROWING YOUR GARDEN KNOWLEDGE - FALL 2015

Thru Nov. 8 - "Clueless" - a fall mum show - at Mitchell Park Conservatory "The Domes" in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Oct. 19-20 - Landscape Design School, GCI Course 2, Glenview, Ill.

Oct. 21-24 - "2015 Midwest Environmental Education Conference" - see website www.meeconference.org for information - in Madison, Wisconsin.

Oct. 23-24 - "End of Season Tool Care" - at Chalet Nursery, Wilmette, Ill.

Oct. 24-25 - "HallowFest: A Garden of Good and Evil" - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Oct. 30-31 - "Getting the Garden Ready for Winter" - at Chalet Nursery, Wilmette, Ill.

Nov. 6-7 - electronics recycling at Friendship Park Conservatory

Nov. 14 - "Design Principals of Wreath Decorating" - Platt Hill Nursery Bloomingdale, Ill.

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

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

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.

HOW TO BECOME THE MOTHER OF A BUTTERFLY!

By Kay MacNeil, Garden Clubs of IL Butterfly Chairman

The following information is a quickie overview.

To Attract and Find Monarch Caterpillars: You need milkweeds. Monarchs only lay their eggs on milkweed plants.

In the Midwest you will want to plant the three primary milkweeds.

1. Common milkweed (*asclepias syriaca*)—This plant looks like a 4' rubber tree plant and has big seed pods. Flowers are pink umbels and fragrant. It can be invasive! Plant in wild unmowed areas.

2. For the front of your perennial bed, plant Swamp milkweed (*asclepias incarnata*) It is pink. The white form is called Ice Ballet. Lovely!

3. Butterfly weed (*asclepias tuberosa*) is orange. These are all perennial. These two are about 3' tall and can go in the front of the border.



Monarchs eggs are only found on milkweed. The female curls her abdomen under the edge of the leaf and tacks a whitish egg the size of a period on this page under the leaf. You can see it. Several days later it hatches into a caterpillar and is a “comma” on this page. Each female lays one egg per plant so there is enough food for the caterpillars. You’ll need more than one milkweed plant.

Egg: 4-6 days. Caterpillar 2-3 weeks. Chrysalis 5-15 days. The monarch chrysalis is a beautiful green with a gold dotted line around it horizontally. It will turn dark and you can see the orange and black colors the day before the butterfly is ready to come out.

See Kay’s new video - at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) search for Kay MacNeil Milkweed to Monarchs

You’ve found a monarch caterpillar and now, What To Do With It?!?! Select your container—an old terrarium, a giant plastic snack container—need a flat bottom and plenty of space. Screening or netting for the top of the container held with a rubber band or something tight—No escapees, please. A flower tube and a small glass to hold your milkweed plant cuttings. Milkweed goes in the tube of water, tube goes in glass, held upright. A random stick for the chrysalis although they always seem to hang on the screening or some where else.

Keep bringing in milkweed until the caterpillar stops eating and makes its chrysalis. Always make sure you have plenty of milkweed leaves. They love to eat at night and you don’t want hungry caterpillars. When transferring caterpillars to new milkweed, clean your container. Take a tissue and clean out the frass (caterpillar poop.) The caterpillar sometimes pauses in its eating to molt and there is usually a one day pause when it thinks about making a hanging “J” before it does it. I always like to feed the caterpillar the same variety of milkweed that I found him on. Wipe down the leaves with your hand or actually run them under water. There can be bad bacteria on the leaves that will harm the caterpillar. Once it’s a chrysalis, remove the milkweed and be patient. Butterflies usually emerge in the AM. Let it pump all the juice out of its body until it is thin bodied and its wings are unfolded and look correct. If a lot of fluttering starts, it is ready for release. The warmth of mid-day is best for release. Go outside and let it go. Aren’t You PROUD?!?!?

Your butterfly’s been released, so wash out your container with soap and water and a little Clorax. Rinse and dry well. You’re ready to try again. It’s fun to keep a little journal and keep track of your releases and results from year to year.

Not every butterfly works out. I have had little caterpillars just stop eating. I’ve had “J”s fall to the bottom of the container for no reason. I’ve had a chrysalis turn black after the first day. I’ve had butterflies not unfold correctly. I put them outside and leave it to nature.

Questions? Or to request information on the Garden Clubs of Illinois Milkweed For Monarchs program, Call Chairman Kay MacNeil 815-469-1294 or kaymac60423@yahoo.com
Also see www.SaveOurMonarchs.org to order your free Swamp Milkweed Seed packet.