



# Arlington Heights garden club

November/December 2017

Growing Together

Carol Elliott, Editor

## Pioneer Gardens

Monday, November 27th

Knowledge of plants was 'woman's business' in early settlement days and pioneer woman knew everything about garden flowers and passed this knowledge onto their children. From the 'viagra' of pioneer days to the cure for the common cold, this presentation explores the history of the kitchen garden, the wild gardens and the more formal gardens that would surround the pioneer home.

Nancy Schumm is the author of numerous books, an award winning photographer and exhibitor, environmentalist and history writer. Her work has been published in the Chicago Tribune, Daily Herald, Pioneer Press, and on the Oprah Winfrey show.



## Greetings from Our President

It is that time of the year when gardeners look back and assess how the year went. From our Garden Club's perspective, we had a very good year. I can't begin to thank all the Board and Club members for their hard work from early January with planning meetings for the Garden Walk, to our Holiday Gathering next month. Let me extend my most heart-felt "THANKS!" to each of you. Please continue your great efforts knowing that they do not go unnoticed.

To celebrate together for the last time in 2017, we will gather at the Historical Museum on December 11th, at 6 P.M., with a catered meal to relax and renew our friendships. This is the Club's way of saying, "thank you" and "let's sit for a change" and just enjoy the moment. Please RSVP to our committee per the item later in the newsletter, so we have an accurate count. I would love to see everyone at the gathering.

One last thought: Our Club is known for its friendly and helpful members, a reputation we are proud of. Several new members have joined in the past few years and we want them to feel welcome. Please extend your hand in friendship at our gatherings and make sure you know all the members of our club. Please take a moment to read the poem, "Message from a New Member" in this newsletter. One of my resolutions for 2018, is to learn something new about another member at each meeting. Happy Holidays!

Jim Spannagel, President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

**Newsletter**  
**Carol Elliott**

**Scholarship and Website**  
**Mike Dennehey**

[www.ahgardenclub.com](http://www.ahgardenclub.com)

## November Hostesses

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

*Barb Franks,*

*Pat Garrity,*

*Carol Elliott*

## Holiday Party Time!



Arlington Heights Garden Club  
Holiday Party  
Monday December 11 @ 6pm  
Arlington Heights Historical Museum

This is a Catered Affair!  
Come dine with us and celebrate the holiday season!

If you are not going to be at the November AHGC meeting PLEASE email Aggie Prochaska @ IMaggie@gmail.com by December 1st if you are coming to the dinner.

## A Warm Welcome!

A Warm Welcome to the newest members of the AHGC

Marilyn & Joe Weber of Arlington Heights



# Forcing Amaryllis and Paperwhites

Forcing bulbs is not complicated and if you use the right ones, it's just about foolproof. Amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus are available almost everywhere and are easy to bloom. With some planning, you can provide color and fragrance for a good portion of winter.

The amaryllis are easily forced into bloom. Large firm bulbs will often produce two flower stalks while the smaller ones only one. Repot the bulb. Choose a pot about one-inch larger than the diameter of the bulb. The bulb should be positioned so that about one-third of the bulb is above the soil line and fill the pot with prepared potting mix. Water well and place the bulb in a well-lighted area with a temperature between 65-70 degrees F. First emerges the flower stalk. When this occurs, give the bulb plenty of light. If the plant is growing on a window sill, turn the pot daily so the stalk will grow straight.

Amaryllis is a bulb that can bloom for many seasons. Remove the faded flower stalk as soon as they finish blooming, but don't cut off the leaves. Allow the foliage to develop. Water as needed. When all danger of frost is passed, set the bulb, container and all, in the flower garden at ground level in a somewhat protected location that receives morning light. Continue to water as needed and feed it every two weeks with a soluble houseplant fertilizer. Follow the directions on the label. Gradually withhold water before freezing weather in fall. Check for pests before bringing the plant indoors. When the foliage has died, trim it off, store the pot in a cool, dark place (40 to 50 degrees F if possible). The bulb needs to rest for six weeks before you try to rebloom it. It takes about six to eight weeks from planting to bloom. You can decide when you want the bloom to happen, then count backwards to determine the planting time. During the rest period do not water it.

Paper white narcissus is perhaps the easiest bulb to force into flower. All you need are bulbs, a shallow tray, gravel and water. Select firm bulbs. Fill a shallow tray or pot saucer with decorative gravel, pea gravel or marbles. Nestle bulbs into the gravel to hold them in place. Arrange the bulbs shoulder to shoulder. Fill the tray with water to just below the base of the bulbs. Place the tray in a well-lighted location with a temperature of 50-60 degrees, which will help keep the shoots short and not fall over. You will be rewarded with very fragrant blooms in about four to six weeks. If you want continuous blooms, plant additional bulbs every two to three weeks.

*Terri Passolt,  
Master Gardener*

Provided by Master Gardeners through the Master Gardener Answer Desk, Friendship Park Conservatory, Des Plaines. For more details on any of the ideas presented here, visit our website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg> or call the Master Gardener Answer Desk at (847) 298-3502 on Wednesdays.



# Garden Knowledge Nov/Dec 2017

thru Jan. 21, 2018 - Rare Box Exhibition: Curtis's: The Longest Running Botanical Magazine" - at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

thru Jan. 27, 2018 - "Cultural Mining: Fashion and Adornment" - at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City, Ind.

thru Jan. 7, 2018 - "Creche Makers" - nativity scenes from countries around the world that interpret their own culture - at Loyola University Museum of Art in Chicago, Ill.

Nov 17 thru Jan 1-Illumination: Tree Lights at the Morton Arboretum

Nov. 18 thru Jan. 7, 2018 - "Naughty & Nice: Holiday Floral Show" - in "The Domes" at Mitchell Park in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Nov. 24 thru Jan. 7, 2018 - Holiday Express - at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Nov. 21 thru Dec. 18 - "Winter Greens Market" - at Oak Park Conservatory in Oak Park, Ill

Nov. 24 thru Jan. 1, 2018 - "Zoolights at Lincoln Park Zoo" - in Chicago, Ill.

Nov. 24 thru Jan. 7, 2018 - "Holiday Floral Show" - at Lincoln Park Conservatory in Chicago, Ill.

Nov. 30- "Botanical Citizen Science-what are the threats facing Native Plants" R.Goad Prospect Hgts.Library 7pm Please Register <http://www.phpl.info/>

Dec. 2 - "Celebrate the Season Holiday Festival" -at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Il.

Dec. 2 - "European Market Mistletoe Market" - in Chesterton, Ind.

Dec. 2 - "Celebrate the Season Holiday Festival, and Mistletoe Market" - sleigh rides, reindeer, carolers, crafts, an assortment of other activities and offerings, and one-of-a-kind gifts at the Mistletoe Market - at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Il.

Dec. 3 - "Holiday Gift Fair" - at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners, Wisc.

Dec. 3 - "Christmas Concert and Dessert Buffet" - at Klehm's Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Rockford, Ill.

Dec. 2 thru Dec. 31 - "Holiday Express" - at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisc.

Dec. 8 thru 10, 14 thru 23, 26 thru 31 - "Holiday Light Show - at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, Ill.

Dec. 9-10 - "Victorian Holiday Celebration" - at Midway Village Museum in Rockford, Ill.

Dec 16 - Christmas Craft Fair @ Knoppers from 10am-4pm



## Keep a Look Out for New Members!

Our Club is known for its friendly and helpful members, a reputation we are proud of. Several new members have joined us in the past few years and we want them to feel as welcome as our long time members of, in some cases, over 40 years. Please extend your hand in friendship at our meetings and gatherings and make sure you know all the members of our club. Find out who they are. Like so many Garden Clubs today, our membership is a little "more established" (if you get my garden reference!), and we come to our gatherings more for the social aspects and less for looking to find ways to get involved and get our hands dirty. We are one Club and our Club can help fulfill the wants and needs of many different personalities. Please take a moment to read the poem, "Message from a New Member" submitted many years ago by Helen Dawley for our 2003 Newsletter. The message is always timely.

### Message from a New Member

(submitted by Helen Dawley, 2003)

I see you at the meetings  
But you never say hello;  
You're busy all the time you're there  
With those you really know.

I sit among the members  
Yet I'm a lonely Guy.  
The new ones are as strange to me  
The old ones pass us by.

Didn't you folks ask us in  
And talk of fellowship,  
You could just step across the room  
But never make the trip.

Could you just nod and say hello  
And stop and shake a hand?  
Then go sit among your friends  
Now that I'd understand.

I'll be at your next meeting  
And hope that you will spend the time to introduce Yourself.  
Please extend that hand,  
Now would that be a crime?



# Photos from the Winter Container Workshop

Thanks to Barb Franks for organizing the event and taking pictures!





## HOW TO STORE YOUR GARDEN HOSE FOR WINTER



- " Turn the spigot off, and depress any attached spray nozzles to remove water.
- " Disconnect your garden hose.
- " Remove attachments.
- " Completely drain the hose. ...
- " Coil the dry hose, making sure that there are no kinks. ...
- " Connect the end fittings to keep out the creepy crawlies.
- " Store your hose in a warm location off of the floor.

## WINTERIZING YOUR RAIN BARREL

- o Disconnect the rain barrel from the gutter downspout.
  - o Connect a temporary downspout extension to the gutter that feeds that rain barrel. Position this so that it is directing rainwater away from the house.
  - o Drain the rain barrel. Water left in for the winter may freeze and crack the barrel itself.
  - o Open the barrel's spigot and leave open for the period of no use, this will avoid freeze damage to the hardware of the barrel.
  - o Rinse the interior of the barrel. Now is a good time to clean the barrel of sediment build up that occurs in many rain barrels during the course of the rainy season.
  - o If you have storage move the rain barrel to an indoor storage area to really extend the life of your rain barrel. If you have not storage or prefer to leave your rain barrel outside then be sure to turn the barrel upside down.
  - o Cover your rain barrel with a tarp for additional protection.
- <https://fullserviceaquatics.com/uncategorized/how-to-winterize-your-rain-barrel/>

## Free Rain Barrels

Yesterday, my neighbor told me that he got three free rain barrels from the village last year. He now realizes that he will never use them so is looking for a new home for them. They are black, blue and brick red and include installation kits. If you are interested, let me know. First come, first served. Pete Landwehr PCTL9061@gmail.com 847-394-0135.





Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older  
by Sydney Eddison

Although the garden may beckon as strongly as ever, the tasks involved - pulling weeds, pushing wheelbarrows, digging holes, moving heavy pots - become increasingly difficult, or even impossible, with advancing age. But the idea of giving it up is unthinkable for most gardeners. So what's the alternative? In *Gardening for a Lifetime*, Sydney Eddison draws on her own forty years of gardening to provide a practical and encouraging roadmap for scaling back while keeping up with the gardening activities that each gardener loves most. Like replacing demanding plants like delphiniums with sturdy, relatively carefree perennials like sedums, rudbeckias, and daylilies. Or taking the leap and hiring help - another pair of hands, even for a few hours a week, goes a long way toward getting a big job done. Or maybe it makes sense to get rid of high-maintenance trees, shrubs, or perennials. This edition features a new chapter in which Sydney's struggles with hip and back problems force her to walk the walk. As a friend of hers says, "Last summer you wrote the book. Now, I'm happy to see that you've read it." Gentle, personable, and practical, *Gardening for a Lifetime* will be welcomed by all gardeners looking to transform gardening from a list of daunting chores into the rewarding, joy-filled activity it was meant to be. (Available thru AHML)