

# THE SECATEUR



Gardeners of Central Lake County  
*Where grown-ups get to play with the dirt*

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**DIRECTORS:** Janice Paulson, Cindy Julian, Sarah O'Brien, Jan Smith, Terri Vanderwerff, and Dale Vanderwerff

**Past Presidents:** Susan Plasz, Andy Plasz, Tony Kirch, Jerry Cleland, Andy Kimmel

Secateur Submission deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of each month  
**Gardeners of Central Lake County's Website:**  
<http://www.gardenersofcentrallakecounty.org/>

## **Monthly Board Meetings: 7 p.m.**

The board meets the first Wednesday of the month at 359 Merrill Court, Libertyville (just west of Milwaukee Ave, just south of Winchester Road.)

The **club meetings** are held on the second Monday of the month at **7:00 p.m.** in the CrossLife Evangelical Free Church on the SE corner of Garfield Ave and Austin Ave. in Libertyville.

**Volume 51, Issue 96 April 2016**

## **President's Message: by Karen O'Hayer**

Happy spring everyone! Yes, the spring equinox is behind us; the hours of daylight are increasing a little each day. And there are other signs of spring. The robins have returned, the crocuses are blooming, and gardeners everywhere are venturing outdoors to begin the annual ritual known as the spring cleanup. During the initial phases of my spring cleanup this week, I found a number of perennials already breaking ground, and was pleased and honored to discover that a pair of red-bellied woodpeckers has selected a dead branch in our tulip tree to set up housekeeping.

Another sure sign of spring for gardeners is starting seeds indoors. If you are new to seed starting, we encourage you to give it a try. It is truly rewarding



to grow beautiful plants from seed and have them ready to transplant into the garden when the temperatures are right. The ideal time to plant seeds indoors is 6-8 weeks before you want to transplant them into the garden. We hope you will donate some of the plants you start indoors to our club's fundraiser, the annual plant sale. Vegetables and herbs were big sellers at last year's sale! The club's website includes links to information on starting seeds.

The Green Living Fair was held on March 12 at the Libertyville Civic Center. A big thank-you to Jan

Kirch for coordinating our club's participation in the fair. And thanks to the many members who took turns manning our booth and interacting with the public. It was good exposure for the club, and a number of people signed up to receive information about our activities throughout the year.

At the March 14 club meeting, we had a very interesting speaker, Barbara Kindinger, who talked about water gardening, including everything from small containers and ponds to large waterfall features. It was fascinating to see how these water features are constructed and to learn about the many options available to the gardener. The plant competition included a terrific selection of plants, and the winner was a stunning orchid with a gorgeous cascade of pink blooms. We encourage all our members to participate in this friendly and fun competition. Congratulations to Jan Van der Wagt, who was honored as the 2015 Rose Garden volunteer of the year.

Because our usual meeting room is also a polling place, a last-minute change of venue was required. Thanks to all the club members who pitched in to make this relocation seamless, especially Sarah O'Brien for working with church staff to find the alternate location and Debbi and Grant Hoover for ensuring we had coffee and tea, despite logistical challenges. Thanks also to the members who provided delicious treats for the meeting.

Tending the Lynn Arthur Public Rose Garden is a public service our club has provided since the garden was established in 1952. This is the time of year when we uncover and clean up the roses as well as plant new bushes. Under the guidance of our very own rosarian, Andy Plaszczyk, we will meet at the Rose Garden on two Saturday mornings, April 2 and April 9, to get the garden ready for spring visitors. It is always a good time, complete with coffee, donuts, and good conversation. Please join us for this important club effort. I guarantee you will appreciate this beautiful garden even more after volunteering a few hours of your time.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming club meeting on April 11, where our speaker will be Melissa Alderson, Environmental Educator, Lake County Forest Preserve. Her presentation is entitled "Pollination: Plant Survival Tactics." Melissa is a terrific presenter, and I'm sure you will enjoy her talk.

## Next Club Activity:

### April 11<sup>th</sup>: **Monthly Meeting**

Melissa Alderson, Environmental Educator, Ryerson Conservation Area – Lake County Forest Preserve

“Pollination: Plant Survival Tactics” - Explore the intricate interdependencies of nature and the sneaky way plants get animals and insects to assist with their survival. Learn about the physiological and mechanical methods plants utilize to achieve pollination.

## Future Programs for 2016

### May 7<sup>th</sup>: **Plant Sale**

### May 9<sup>th</sup>: **Monthly Meeting**

Dr. Rex Bastian –Ph.D. in Entomology; MS and BS in Horticulture; - Regional Technical Advisor, The Care of Trees<sup>®</sup>

**Fertilization – Myth Versus Reality** - Have you ever wondered how and why fertilizers actually work? What does “organic” really mean? Is there more to healthy plants than just N-P-K-levels? We will discuss what fertilizers are and what they can and can't do. We will take a look at the “science” of fertilizers and dispel the myths. We will also discuss the soil food web and its importance to plants.

### June 13<sup>th</sup>: **Monthly Meeting**

Sharon Yiesla, Horticulturist– Sharon Yiesla, Horticultural Services

### **Mix & Match; Using Annuals and Perennials**

**Together:** Many gardeners think of themselves as perennial gardeners, while others use only annuals. Combining perennials and annuals can give the garden continuous color from the very early part of spring until the latter part of fall. Learn how to put these two groups of flowers together to keep your garden lively all season long.

### July **No Monthly Meeting**

### July 9<sup>th</sup> **Garden Walk**

### July 15<sup>th</sup> **Picnic**

### August 8<sup>th</sup>: **Monthly Meeting**

### **Mini Plant Show**

## September 12<sup>th</sup>: **Monthly Meeting**

Alan Schulman,

### **Easy Gardening**

Alan Schulman and Sam Solomon produced a 12 episode TV show called Easy Gardening. Alan will explain the background of the series. He will then show the episode that features a full sun garden and a shade garden. He will also show a time lapse movie of the lifecycle of the Monarch butterfly.

## October 10<sup>th</sup>: **Monthly Meeting**

Nell Rice – Owner - Debbie's Floral, Mundelein

### **Floral Arranging for the Holidays**

Nell will demonstrate some easy, fun, and functional ways to decorate for the holidays without breaking the bank! Beautiful arrangements will be raffled off.

## November 14<sup>th</sup>: **Pie Social**

December 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Holiday Party/Annual Meeting**

The club meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in The CrossLife Evangelical Free Church, 431 W. Austin in Libertyville. Guests are always welcome!

For more information contact Cindy at 847-772-2186 or [juliancindy@hotmail.com](mailto:juliancindy@hotmail.com)

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### **Welcome New Members:**

Judy and Joe Popiolek

1425 Victory Dr.

Libertyville, IL 60048

email: [judy@popiolek.com](mailto:judy@popiolek.com)

phone: 847-514-0052

Gardening Interests: Vegetables and flowers

Other interests: Painting, Reading

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### **Annual Plant Sale 2016**

MAY 7, 2016 8:30 to 11:00

by Tony Kirch

Our ANNUAL PLANT SALE will be at the CRAWFORD WARMING HOUSE, 817 W. Lake

Street in Libertyville. We will set up on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Members are encouraged to bring their **labeled** plants where they will be set on tables. We hope to have everything ready for Saturday. More members are needed to get involved this year as we have lost some helpers and some sources of plants. I will be at the next meeting with a sign-up sheet. There will be some changes this year which I will explain at that time. Thank You for your support in this effort. Questions? Call me at 224-541-4374 or email me at [tkirch40@comcast.net](mailto:tkirch40@comcast.net). Tony Kirch

### **FREE Spring Garden Walk**

The “Gardeners of the North Shore,” garden club, established 1939, invites you to three of our members’ spring gardens on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> -



Noon to 4 p.m. The gardeners are: Merilee and John Novinson, 1105 Adirondack Dr., Northbrook; Alan and Barbara Schulman, 3 Foxtail Lane, Riverwoods; Carol

Sternal, 953 Thomas Blvd., Mundelein. These gardens will be open on May 1<sup>st</sup> for your self-guided tour anytime between noon and 4 p.m. Come see the colors of spring and enjoy the return of warm weather! Having no control over Mother Nature, our Spring Walk will take place rain or shine, so if it’s raining just wear your boots and bring an umbrella! Any further questions, email Merilee Novinson at [gardenersofthenorthshore@gmail.com](mailto:gardenersofthenorthshore@gmail.com) or see <http://www.gardenersofthenorthshore.org>. We look forward to sharing our flowers with you!

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### **2017 Photo Competition**

For the upcoming year, the theme for our club’s Photo Contest is “Bees, Bugs and Butterflies.” As you may remember, last year we first tried a themed contest with a focus on Trees. Our contest “guidelines” were that members should try their best to take photos of any part of any type of tree species. Tree photos were not required for last year’s contest and as we move forward we will continue to encourage members to submit photos containing any other garden-related content. For the 2016 contest our members submitted a total of 53 photos and 38 contained trees. The top 20

photos, as voted by club members, had 17 with a tree theme.

Our process for this year's contest will be similar. We encourage members to photograph Bees, Bugs and Butterflies while also remembering we are a garden club interested in plants, flowers, and landscapes. For those who might be interested, here are a couple of websites to visit -

<http://www.xerces.org/blog/5-insect-photo-tips/> and

<http://monarchbutterflygarden.net/butterfly-photography-secrets/>

In December, I will remind members to submit their best 5 photos for the 2017 contest, keeping in mind that the submitted photos are not required to contain any of the thematic objects (Bees, Bugs and/or Butterflies).



For the upcoming contest, we want to encourage more of our members to enter photos. To that end, I am putting together a program to talk about taking photos with an iPhone. The quality of

the cameras on smart phones continues to increase with each new generation, to the point where smart phone photos are becoming nearly indistinguishable from those taken on more traditional DSLR cameras. Because most of us constantly use our portable phones, we follow one of the cardinal guidelines of photography: Take your camera with you.

The photo competition for the club was created to help all of us get better at taking photos of our flowers, plants, and gardens. For those of you who have not entered before or have not entered for a few years, please consider submitting your own photos this year. It is great fun and we will all become better photographers as we continue to learn from each other.

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## Gardeners at the Green Living Fair 2016

by Jan Kirch

The Gardeners of Central Lake County again participated in the Green Living Fair on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Libertyville Civic Center. The Libertyville Civic Center Foundation sponsors this event with the founding group, Lake County Green Congregations. Our club was 1 of over 40

exhibitors including, CLC, Audubon, Lake County Forest Preserve, Conserve Lake County, Citizens Climate Lobby, Working Bikes Coop and youth clubs to name a few. Additionally, there were many recycling opportunities available to the public including: Styrofoam blocks, bikes and bike parts, eye glasses, wine corks, batteries, shoes and CDs. About 300 people attended the event which was free to the public.



Our exhibit continues to be very popular. We provided information on kitchen composting, distributed and discussed Garden club programs, especially highlighting our upcoming Plant Sale and Garden Walk and collected over a dozen emails of interested attendees. Members answered program and gardening questions as they exchanged ideas with attendees.



Thank you to all who participated: Rekha Deodhar, Cindy Julian, Pat Meehan, Delores O'Connell, Karen O'Hayer, Janice Paulson, Susan Plasz, Janice Smith,

Dale Vanderwerff and Fair Greeter, Phil Swartz. Susan Plasz created our GCLC informational tri-fold and a beautiful Garden Walk Poster displaying this year's gardens; Janice Paulson took pictures of our display and of the entire event, as well. Additionally, Patti Hudak and Jan Kirch worked as part of the Lake County Green Congregations



(LCGC) plan committee. Our presence was very apparent! Hopefully, a greater understanding of the importance of shopping locally, shopping green

and taking care of our planet 'seeds' have been 'sowed'. By **Reducing - Re-Using - Recycling & Re-Thinking** we benefit ourselves and future generations! **Gardeners are the REAL Keepers of the Earth so keep on planting!**

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## 2015 Outstanding Rose Garden Volunteer

Jan van der Wagt

By Andy Plaszc

Congratulations Jan van der Wagt for being a 2015 Outstanding Rose Garden Volunteer in the Lynn Arthur Rose Garden. Jan participated throughout the growing season helping from uncovering, to pruning to applying the winter protection. There were 31 volunteers who helped in the garden in 2015, combining for a total of 438 hours in public service. The rose garden is a large endeavor and requires many hands at various times of the year to be successful. Many hands also mean less work for each one. The rose garden has been the Gardeners of Central Lake County's longest continuously running project, since the early 50's and is sustained each year through the help of our members. Although Jan was the outstanding volunteer this year, many others had significant input over the year, some for just a few hours and others for more. The top participants by hours for 2015 are listed below. Many of our participants are not club members but they come out because they enjoy the work, camaraderie, and the garden itself. I usually do not know them unless they talk to me. I keep the record of total number of hours the volunteers put in each year. The Mayor really appreciates what the Gardeners of Central Lake County do in Cook Park.



Jan Van der Wagt was a first timer as a volunteer in the rose garden in 2015. He has a magnificent garden at home. He enjoys being in his garden. He came wanting to

learn. He had a great time throughout the growing season. Jan did everything from raking and schlepping wet leaves, pruning existing bushes, planting new ones, applying Preen, watering in, deadheading, weeding etc.

We need you folks to come as well! So I would encourage you to take the opportunity to come and help in the garden. We will start the first 2 Saturdays in April, (4/2/16 and 4/9/16) and it is always a fun time. We try and take some time to explain why we are doing something and how it affects the garden.

## Top Hours for "The Lynn Arthur Rose Garden" in 2015

Name	Hours
Jan Van der Wagt	52
Terry Webb	35
Karen O'Hayer	28
Ken Carpenter	25
Jan Smith	23
Andy Kimmel	22
Jerry Cleland	16
Matt Smith	13

## 2016 Monthly Plant Competition

In the month of January during bitter cold weather, there were no entries in the competition. Then in February, we had just a single entry. But lo and behold with the warmer weather in March, 5 folk brought in 6 wonderful entries. All of these March entries got a first in the judge's opinion. This



means that with a third of the months gone in the 2016 competition, we have a very tight race for the most points in 2016 and with the totals so low due to the weather; anyone with

the desire can get right into the fray and have a chance. If you have something that looks good to you sitting at home on a meeting day, why don't you give it a ride to the meeting and enter it in the competition.

## Results of 2016 plant competition

Month	Name	Entry	Points
February	<b>Second Place</b> Delores O'Connell	Sedum	3
March	<b>Best of the show</b> Loraine Austin	Phalenopsis Orchid	10
	<b>First Place</b> Nancy Adams	Christmas Cactus	5
	Jerry Cleland	Dendrobium Orchid	5
	Jerry Cleland	Dendrobium Orchid	5
	Janice Paulson	Snowdrops	5
	Susan Plaszc	Phalennopsis Orchid	5

## 2016 Year to Date Results

Name	Points
Laurie Austin	10
Jerry Cleland	10
Janice Paulson	5
Susan Plasz	5
Nancy Adams	5
Delores O'Connell	3

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### Three Books to Help You Spring into Gardening – by Jan Kirch

Click here to read: <http://bit.ly/1MvRSm>

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### **PHYLLIS MOHLER**

**1930-2016**

**Reflections of a Celebration**

**by Tony Kirch**

Phyllis Mohler passed away on Wednesday, February 3, 2016. Jan & I attended a celebration of her life. Almost everyone there got up and told some wonderful stories about how Phyllis affected them. Phyllis had a very large family, many friends, and often exchange students in her home. The Mohler house was a gathering place for anyone that knew them.

Phyllis had many interests! She was active in her church, at the Botanical Gardens and in our Club. Many years ago we had a very large Flower Show. Phyllis had many entries, helped run the show, and was a judge. Every year, around the end of April, I would get a call from Phyllis. “When are you going to come out and dig?” Phyllis and I would walk around her beautiful garden. She would point and I would dig. I would end up with a car full of large perennials. These divided plants would then end up at our Plant Sale. The last task was always a large hug. That’s the way she said good-bye.

Phyllis Mohler was a wonderful lady with a big heart and lots of love that she shared with everyone.



**Gardeners of Central Lake County**

**ANNUAL**

# **PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016**

**8:30 A.M. ~ 11:00 A.M.**

Featuring **LOCALLY** grown plants

Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs & Native Plants

At the

**CRAWFORD WARMING HOUSE**

817 W. Lake St. Libertyville

On the south side of Lake St. halfway between

Butterfield & Milwaukee

(North end of Butler Lake)

Rain or Shine

Secateur  
25229 Wayside Place  
Lake Villa, IL 60046

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