

# THE SECATEUR



Gardeners of Central Lake County

*Where grown-ups get to play with the dirt*



*Happy Holidays*

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**DIRECTORS:** Chuck Austin, Janice Paulson, Cindy Julian, Dale Vanderwerff, Jan Van der Wagt

**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.

[\*\*13 good reasons to join the Club!\*\*](#)

**Volume 53, Issue 114 December 2017**

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

Greetings Gardeners,

Alas, I was unable to attend the November meeting. A big thank-you to Andy Kimmel for filling in for me. I was sorry to miss our 3rd annual seed swap, but from what I hear it was well attended and went off without a hitch. I hope you all found some interesting seeds to try in next year's garden. This year we will be contributing the leftover seeds from our swap to Fremont Library, which maintains a seed library. Thanks to Delores O'Connell and Cindy Julian for taking care of donating the leftover seeds. And thanks to all the bakers who contributed to the annual pie social. I heard it was delicious, as always!



I'd like to thank Laurie Austin, who has volunteered to coordinate refreshments at our club meetings beginning in 2018. Debbi Hoover, who has served in this role for

the past two years, is stepping down, with our heart-felt thanks for a job well done.

Unfortunately, none of our members have volunteered to take over as Programs Chair, so Delores O'Connell has graciously agreed to continue for another year. But, we need to continue looking for Delores's replacement. After all, what is a garden club without programs? Delores has set the bar high, but I'm sure she'd be happy to mentor any club member willing to step up and take over this role. So, please give it some serious consideration.

We are looking forward to our annual Holiday Party and Dinner on Sunday, December 3 at the St. Lawrence Episcopal Church in Libertyville. There will be ample parking behind the church. Please enter from the back door and take the stairs to the basement.



Set up begins at 3:00, reception at 4:00, and dinner at 5:00. We will be ordering chicken Milanese and mini meatballs from Mariano's. Our club members will provide

appetizers, salads, side dishes, desserts, and drinks. If you haven't paid your annual dues for 2018, you will have an opportunity to do so at the party.

We will present awards to several club members who have excelled in the monthly plant competition, the mini-show, and the rose garden and one dedicated person will receive our coveted bronze metal award. In addition, we'll be voting to elect a slate of officers and directors to our governing board. So, you won't want to miss this event. Bring a hearty appetite and your holiday spirit. I hope to see you there!

It has been my pleasure to serve as the club president this year. I continue to appreciate the enthusiasm and dedication of our members who make this club so successful. We provide many opportunities to get involved, from the spring plant sale and Green Living Fair, to our summer garden walk and picnic, and our fall seed swap and year-end holiday party. And we offer opportunities to hone your leadership skills by joining our governing board.

Throughout the year we provide a series of informative programs, opportunities to compete in plant and photography competitions, a terrific newsletter, and great food and camaraderie. During the growing season, we support the community gardens, offer the only free garden walk in the area, and maintain the beautiful public rose garden in downtown Libertyville. We accomplish all this through the contributions of our talented and dedicated members. Thanks to each of you for helping to make 2017 a great year for the Gardeners of Central Lake County!

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### **This Month's Club Activity:**

**December 3**

#### **Holiday Party and Annual Dinner**

St. Lawrence Episcopal Church

3 pm Setup, 4 pm reception and 5 pm dinner

### **Future Programs for 2018**

**January 8**

#### **Flowers of Oregon & Frost on the Windows**

Joan Sayre – Nature photographer

Questions and Answers on photography

#### **Photo Contest:**

Jerry Cleland

**February 12**

#### **Excellence is in our Nature**

Katherine Hamilton-Smith

Director of Public Affairs and Development,  
Lake County Forest Preserve District.

What Forest Preserve does and also info on planting natives and eliminating invasives.

**March 8**

#### **Gardening Myths and Mis-information: Barriers to Good Gardening**

Sharon Yiesla

**April 9th**

#### **Growing Orchids at Home**

Jerry Cleland

How to take care of your Orchid at home

**May 12**

#### **Plant Sale**

Crawford Warming House

8:30-11 am

**May 14**

"Divide and Multiply: When to Divide What (And How)" – Beth Botts

**June 12**

#### **Mini Flower Show/Members Forum**

**June 23**

#### **Garden Walk**

**July 20**

#### **Annual Picnic**

Old School Forest Preserve, Shelter D

5 pm

**Sept. 10**

TBD/ Veggie Tasting

**Oct. 8**

#### **Backyard Birds and Bird Feeding**

David Brooks, Spring Valley Nature Center

Learn the "how to" of attracting a variety of birds to your yard with feeding stations and food plantings. Program will include a who's-who of common local birds and some of the migrants to be observed in spring and fall.

**Nov. 12**

#### **Pie Social**

**Dec. 9**

#### **Holiday Party and Annual Dinner**

For useful gardening articles go to:

<http://gardenersofcentrallakecounty.org/articles/>

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### 2018 Garden Club Dues

Arlene Doran- Treasurer

As most of you are aware, we are part of a National Club, The Gardeners of America, and when you pay your \$20.00 to the club, we send \$15.00 to National.

The Gardeners of America has always encouraged clubs to have dues collected and sent to them before the beginning of the new calendar year.

We are usually running a little behind that goal, and it seems to get a little later each year before we have all dues in house.

Dues received in January will not be registered until February, not a huge problem, but one we would like to minimize.

So I will be happy to take your 2018 dues at the December meeting.

Dues remain \$20.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family.

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### Let me breathe in the world

- Janice Paulson

Let me feel the cool breeze upon my brow during my toils

Let me listen to the silence and hear the heartbeat of nature

Let me touch the soil between my fingers and relish its nourishing energy

Let me see the intricacies of life in the light and perceive the shadows

Let me taste both the sweet and sour of the world's bounty

Let me breathe in the world

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### November Meeting Photos

#### Seed Swap



### GCLC Photo Contest

For the upcoming year, the theme for our club's Photo Contest is "Water." Our



process for this year's contest will be similar. We encourage members to photograph water related subject, while also remembering we are a

garden club interested in plants, flowers, and landscapes.

See article at the end, written by Jerry Cleland.

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### Thanks to Garden Walk Participants



**Pie Social**



**Plant Competition**



**Photos by Gardeners**



## Photo Contest – Jerry Cleland

For the 2017 year, the theme for our photo contest is “Water” so we encourage members to take plant and garden-related photos that include water features. Our themes for the past two years were “Trees” in 2015 and “Bees, Bugs and Butterflies” in 2016. As in the past, none of the photos entered into our annual contests are required to have thematic items included but our members have enjoyed seeing how others have photographed the thematic items in the past.

The 2017 contest will be our 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for a photo contest. For many of our newer members, the club has always sponsored a photo contest but of course it had to begin somewhere. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary seems like a good time to tell that story.

In the early 2000s the club voted to discontinue the large annual Flower and Garden Show that we had sponsored each fall, for several decades. The show was very expensive in terms of members’ time and club funds but we had continued because of its central importance for the club’s identity. But, when we discovered that only a few of our members were supporting most of the show by bringing in very large numbers of entries, we decided that the large show was no longer appropriate. However, after we had stopped that club activity, it seemed like we needed a replacement activity that many members would find enjoyable.

In 2005 and 2006, I had entered the national photo competition on my own and wondered if there might be other club members interested in learning more about plant and garden photography. After discussing this possibility at our general meetings once or twice and receiving a positive response, Andy Plasz and I approached a photo club that met at Volo Bog; the Shutter Bugs of Volo Bog Nature Photography Club. One very cold and snowy evening we drove to one of their meetings, watched what they did, and asked if they would be willing to talk to our club about what they did in their club. They graciously agreed and three of their members came to at least a couple of our meetings. As our invited speakers, we provided them with photos taken by our members which they projected onto a screen and talked about numerous positive and negative issues with each of the photos. They did a wonderful job and our members enjoyed those meetings.

In 2006 the club voted to have its first photo contest, with the possibility of entering our best photos into the national contest. Because I had previously entered the national contest, I was aware that entries for the national were due in early February, so our first contest was held in January 2007. However, there had never been a group or club entry in the national competition so there were numerous conversations with those administering the national competition about whether the national would allow our club to enter individual photos from a large number of people as a single entry. In the end the national agreed, but our club was not eligible for the annual “most points” award and perhaps some other awards. Since we were not entering the competition for those reasons and agreed that we would not be eligible for certain awards, we were allowed to enter our individual photos as a single club entry and, to this day, remain the only club in the country that does this.



After deciding to have a club photo contest, for the first couple of years and probably longer, we made sure to invite outside nature photographers to show their photos during at least one of our monthly meetings each year. We wanted to keep learning how to take better flower and nature photos by viewing photos from external experts with a broad range of skills. Joan and Jim Sayre were one of those early presentations and have now become a regular yearly presentation, for the past several years during the January meeting. I think most of the club members will agree that our photos continue to get better and better.

Over the past ten years we have developed a relatively consistent set of steps through which our members' photos are processed. The annual process begins near the end of each calendar year when club members send their photos for our upcoming contest. Our members send me an email by December 15 with their attached entry of up to 5 photos. Those photos are printed in a standard format and displayed during the January meeting, where members anonymously vote for the best photos. The 20 photos receiving the most votes at the January club contest are then entered into the Gardeners of America contest; we call that the "national contest." The photos sent to the national are judged twice. The first time they are judged at the national convention where a group of 3 judges rates each photo on a 1-15 scale: 11-15 is blue, 6-10 is red and 1-5 is yellow. In addition to total points, the judges at the national competition give Best of Section and Judges' Choice awards. More details are available on the national site by clicking Photo Competition - <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/>

Once the judging is complete at the national convention, all of the submitted photos are then re-entered into a separate competition for the national calendar, published each year by the Gardeners of America. From that contest, thirteen photos are chosen to be printed in a large 8" x 11" format in the Gardeners of America calendar; one cover photo and then one photo for each month of the year. In addition, a smaller 1 ½" x 2 ½" photo is also chosen for inclusion for each month in the national calendar. Our members have had many photos selected and included in that calendar over the years. We have also had photos selected by the judges for special honors - <http://www.tgoa-mgca.org/PhotoComp.htm>

Photos from past

