

# THE SECATEUR



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

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**DIRECTORS:** Chuck Austin, Janice Paulson, Cindy Julian, Terri Vanderwerff, and 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.

**Volume 53, Issue 105 February 2017**

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

Hello, Gardeners.

Each year since 1990, the Perennial Plant Association has selected a "Perennial Plant of the Year". For 2017, their selection is a U.S. and Illinois native that is drought tolerant and deer resistant. It's long-lasting orange flowers attract adult butterflies and it's leaves are a food source for caterpillars of the Monarch butterfly. The plant is *Asclepias tuberosa*, commonly known as butterfly weed or orange milkweed. It is a beautiful plant, and I'm delighted that the Perennial Plant Association has selected a native milkweed this year. Below is a link containing additional information about the selection.

<http://www.hortmag.com/plants/perennial-plant-of-the-year-2017-asclepias-tuberosa+>

This gets me thinking about our 2017 plant sale. Why? Because January/February is the perfect time to start seeds of native plants, like milkweeds, and cold-hardy veggies, like kale, in plastic milk jugs placed outdoors, using the winter sowing method. Some of our club members have experience with this technique of seed starting, so don't hesitate to reach out for advice.

Perennials are always the main focus of our plant sale, but in the past few years, we have also offered a number of vegetable plants, and they have been big sellers. So, if you're starting veggies from seed this year, please consider growing some extras for the plants sale. And, if you're feeling adventurous, give the winter sowing method a try. Cindy Julian has inspired me to start some seeds using this method for the first

time this year! For more information on the timing for winter sowing of various plants see the link below.

<http://www.agardenforthehouse.com/2012/01/what-to-winter-sow-and-when/>

The Green Living Fair is set for Saturday, March 18, at the Civic Center in Libertyville, and the Gardeners of Central Lake County will once again be participating. We need volunteers to help by greeting the public, sharing gardening information, and showcasing our club's activities.

The 2017 photo contest was held at the January 9 club meeting. Club members had an opportunity to vote for



their favorite photos. The highest scoring photos will be entered into the photo contest at the national level. Thanks to all of our members who entered amazing photos and to Jerry Cleland for

organizing the contest. Our speaker at the meeting was local photographer, Joan Sayre, who presented a program entitled "Flowers and Wildlife of Alaska", which included breathtaking landscapes in addition to flower and wildlife shots.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Monday, February 13, at 7:00 pm, at the CrossLife Church, on the corner of Austin and Garfield in Libertyville, where our speaker will be Dr. Rex Bastian presenting "The Soil Food Web - What You Need to Know".

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

**Feb. 13**

**The Care of Trees: The Soil, Food, Web  
What You Need to Know**

Dr. Rex Bastian, Regional Technical Advisor

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### **Future Programs for 2017**

**March 13**

**Radicle Root Farm:**

**The Importance of Organic Growing and Eating**

Alison Parker

**March 18**

**Green Living Fair**

Libertyville Civic Center

10 am-2 pm

**April 10**

**The Inviting Front Yard**

Julie Janoski, Janoski Designs

**May 8**

**Coyotes and Other Canines of Lake County**

Melissa Alderson, Ryerson Conservation Area

Lake County Forest Preserves

**May 13**

**Plant Sale**

Crawford Warming House

8:30-11 am

**June 12**

**Fairy Gardening**

Kim Hartman

Countryside Flower Shop, Nursery and Garden Center

**June 24 Garden Walk**

**July 14**

**Annual Picnic**

Old School Forest Preserve, Shelter D

5 pm

**July 19-21**

**Gardeners of America National Convention**

Cleveland

**July 22**

**Community Gardens Open House & Tour**

9-11 am

**September 11**

**Mini Flower Show, Veggie Tasting**

**October 9**

**TBD**

**November 13**

**Pie Social**

**December 3**

**Holiday Party and Annual Dinner**

St. Lawrence Episcopal Church

3 pm Setup, 4 pm reception and 5 pm dinner

For more information contact Cindy at 847-772-2186 or

[juliancindy@hotmail.com](mailto:juliancindy@hotmail.com)

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### **Welcome New Members:**

Trudy Valenti

668 Valley Park Dr.

Libertyville, IL60048

email: [Trudy@DeBrulerco.com](mailto:Trudy@DeBrulerco.com)

phone: 847- 366-7516

Gardening Interests: flowers and vegetables

Other interests: reading, puzzles, indoor gardening  
(flowering plants and others)

## Membership in the America Horticultural Society

- Karen O'Hare

We all know about the great perks of membership in the Gardeners of Central Lake County (GCLC)-- camaraderie with our fellow plant lovers, awesome speakers, photo contests, plant judging, and opportunities to work on any of several projects that benefit the community, like the Green Living Fair, the Rose Garden, the Plant Sale, the Garden Walk, and the Libertyville Community Gardens.

But there is an additional perk you may not be aware of. As a member of the GCLC, you are also a member of the national gardening organization called The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America (TGOA/MGCA). Membership in TGOA/MGCA allows you to join the American Horticultural Society (AHS) for \$25, a \$10 savings off the normal membership cost.

As a member of AHS, you will receive the magazine, The American Gardener, which is sent out six times a year. In addition, the AHS has a reciprocal admissions program which entitles members to free admission in over 300 arboreta and botanical gardens throughout the North America, including the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

To join the AHS for the first time, send your request with a \$25 check made out to TGOA/MGCA, and they will process it for you. The address is:

Gardeners of America  
5560 Merle Hay Rd/P.O. Box 241  
Johnston, IA 50131-0241

Renewals are also \$25 per year but are handled directly by AHS. So consider this additional perk and broaden your gardening experiences in 2017!

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## Green Living Fair – 2017

- Jan Kirch

The Gardeners of Central Lake County will again participate in the Green Living Fair on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Libertyville Civic Center. The Libertyville Civic Center Foundation sponsors this event with the founding group, Lake County Green Congregations and Faith in Place. Our club will be 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. There will be continuous 30 minute break-out sessions which

focus on environmental issues. Additionally, there will be 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 last year. It is free to the public.

As in the past, we will offer gardening information, our programs and Libertyville Community Gardens information. Additionally, we will advertise our Plant Sale and Garden Walk. Members work 1 hour shifts to answer program and gardening questions and exchange ideas with attendees.

Join our planning committee meeting at 6:30 before our regular monthly meeting, February 13th to exchange ideas and to plan our exhibit.

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## Winter Sowing

- Cindy Julian

Welcome to Winter Sowing!

Looking forward to my second season of winter sowing!

There is not a perfect science to winter sowing- what I did last year was to just get started, and I was amazed at what I ended up with!

I would encourage everyone to read as much as possible, collect your containers, potting soil, duct tape and labels and get out your seeds!

With the warm temperatures, I just put out my first containers this week. I start in January with perennials, this year I used many seeds I had collected, so hoping for the best. Good candidates are seeds that on the seed packet say "cold stratification", "self sowing", "direct sow outside in fall or spring" but I winter sow all my perennials end of January/early February. This year I have started: Coneflower, Balloon flower, mountain mint, meadow rue, stokes aster, calamint, and monarda so far.

In mid-February, I will sow hardy annuals and herbs. Cold hardy annuals include allysum, snapdragon, calendula, celosia, cosmos, dianthus, lupine, petunia, and dahlia as some I have had success with and there are many more in our zone. Herbs for me will include cilantro, basil and parsley. Cool weather vegetables that have worked well for me include arugula, kale,



cabbage, cauliflower, and spinach. I am also going to try self-bunching onion seeds.

I will continue to start seeds for peppers and tomatoes indoors, starting my pepper seeds the end of February so the plants are a good size for our May plant sale. I will also start some annual seeds indoors in case my winter sown containers are not a success.

I would encourage everyone to give it a try! Good links on our website. Start small, if you wish and see what happens! The results may just surprise you!

If you would like to be part of my email group for winter sowing and seed starting, just send me an email. [juliancindy@hotmail.com](mailto:juliancindy@hotmail.com)  
Great way to share information in the group!

Looking forward to sunshine!

**Calling All Gardeners and Seed Savers!**

Fremont Library is starting a seed lending library, and is currently accepting donations of cleaned and dried seeds from open-pollinated or heirloom vegetables, flowers, herbs, or native plants. We can only accept seeds if you include the following information:

- who it was collected by
  - year collected
  - species and/or common name and variety
- Put each variety in a separate envelope or zipper bag, so we can sort them for distribution. Donations can be left at the Readers Services desk on the 1st floor. Seeds will be available for "check out" beginning in March.

**2017 Monthly Plant Competition - Andy Plas**

In the month of January, we had only one entry, beautiful orchid.



If you have something that looks good to you, why don't you bring it to the monthly meeting and enter it in the competition. You never know it may be the best flower of the show. It is worth giving a try.

Name	Plant name	Points
Karen O'Hayer	Phaleanopsis Orchid	10





## Contest Winning Photos 2017



Cleland, J Yellow Swallowtail



Deodhar, R Grasshopper



Deodhar, R Purple Dahlia



Deodhar, S Honeysuckle



Hoover, G Black & Red



Hoover, G Blue & White



Julian, C Pink White Peony



Kimmel, A Fungi



Kimmel, A Maine woods



Meehan, P Ducks



Munchez, V Coneflowers



Ohayer, K Bee coneflower



Ohayer, K Dragonfly



Ohayer, K Nodding onion



Paulson, J 3 Frogs



Plasz, A White Berries



Scales, P Teasel Mantis



Thompson, B - Palm Leaves



van der Wagt, J Swallowtail



Vanderwerff, D Rudbekia Bug

Last	First	Photo Name
Cleland	Jerry	Yellow Swallowtail
Deodhar	Rekha	Grasshopper on leaf
Deodhar	Rekha	Grasshopper Purple Dahlia
Deodhar	Subhash	Butterfly Honeysuckle
Hoover	Grant	Black Red Butterfly
Hoover	Grant	Blue White Butterfly
Julian	Cindy	Pink White Peony bug
Kimmel	Andy	Coneflower with bee
Kimmel	Andy	Maine woods
Meehan	Pat	Duck and Company
Munchez	Val	Red Orange Coneflowers
Ohayer	Karen	Bee on nodding wild onion
Ohayer	Karen	Bumblebee on coneflower
Ohayer	Karen	Halloween Pennant Dragonfly
Paulson	Janice	Morton Arboretum Frogs
Plasz	Andy	White Symphoricarpos Berries
Scales	Pat	Teasel Mantis
Thompson	Barb	Palm Leaves
van der Wagt	Jan	Swallowtail Hydrangea
Vanderwerff	Dale	Rudbekia Bug