

THE SECATEUR



Gardeners of Central Lake County

Where grown-ups get to play with the dirt

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

Secateur Submission deadline: 25th 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 110 July 2017

President's Message: by Karen O'Hayer

Hello, Gardeners.

This has been my best year ever for lettuce. I started it from seed with the winter-sowing method. The seeds germinated very well outside over the winter in their milk jug mini-greenhouses, and I transplanted lettuce seedlings into the garden in mid-April. This gave me a great head start on the season. My only problem is an over-abundance of produce! Every year I grow something that I have way too much of. Last year I grew a bumper crop of tomatillos, and quickly discovered there is only so much salsa a person can eat. So, I'd like to let you know about a great opportunity to share your produce.



Libertyville Township has a food pantry that's open Tuesday's from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Libertyville Township office. Like all food pantries, they accept non-perishable food items. But, they also really appreciate fresh produce. Donations can be dropped off any time that the Township office is open. The best time to drop off produce is on Monday, so it will be at its freshest when the pantry is open on Tuesday. [Get additional information](#) about the food pantry here. So, please consider sharing with those in our community who are in need and donate your excess produce to the Libertyville Township food pantry this summer!

Our speaker at the June 12 club meeting was Kim Hartmann from Countryside Garden Center. Kim gave a terrific talk about miniature gardening and also

demonstrated how to make a fairy garden. She began her talk with a fun quiz about current gardening trends.

I was intrigued that the Pantone color of the year for 2017 was 'greenery'. I went to their website and discovered that the color is a yellowish-green and symbolizes new beginnings by evoking the color of new growth in the spring. As I watched a



lovely video about the color of the year on the [Pantone website](#), I was struck by the fact that our new club t-shirts are most definitely 'greenery' in color. So, here's to us for being so very trendy!

Our June monthly plant competition included a large number of beautiful entires. Our judges gave some great pointers on how to present plants at their best. As always, the meeting wrapped up with refreshments and conversation. Thanks to the members who provided delicious treats!



Our annual garden walk took place on Saturday, June 24. The weather could not have been more perfect! We had a good turnout, and all the gardens looked fantastic. Many thanks to the members who helped find the beautiful and varied gardens featured this year. Thanks also to our members who volunteered to staff the walk on the day of the event, to Arlene Doran for coordinating the staffing of the gardens, to Cindy Julian for handling publicity, to Subhash Deodhar for creating the map and directions, and to Delores O'Connell who organized the pre-walk, which allows the hosts to see all the gardens on the day before the walk. Also, a big thank-you to Susan Plasz who generously shared her vast expertise on how to hold great garden walk. We could not have done it without her. Great job everyone!

Our annual picnic will take place on Friday, July 14, starting at 5:00 pm, at Old School Forest Preserve, shelter D. Thanks to Andy Kimmel for taking reservations this year and to Terri and Dale Vanderwerff for purchasing the raffle prizes. The Gardeners of Central Lake County know how to throw a mean potluck, so don't miss this evening of great food and camaraderie.

Our club will hold a Libertyville Community Gardens Open House on Saturday, July 22, from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Please join us for a self-guided tour of the gardens. This is a great opportunity to chat with the gardeners and see what interesting veggies, herbs and flowers they are raising. Master gardeners will also be on hand to answer all your questions about vegetable gardening.

I look forward to seeing you at our next club meeting on Monday, September 11, which will be our mini-show and veggie tasting. Please note: there are no meetings in July or August. Happy gardening!

This Month's Club Activity:

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

Future Programs for 2017

September 11

Mini Flower Show, Veggie Tasting

October 9

Growing Native Plants from Seed

Lake County Forest Preserves

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

For useful gardening articles go to:

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

Annual Picnic:

Our Annual Picnic is fast approaching on **Friday evening, July 14**. Chicken entrees will be provided by the club. You're welcome to bring soft drinks, beer or wine to share too.

You can respond by clicking on the link below to a Google doc and type in your own information.

[GCLC 2017 Picnic](#)

Or let Andy Kimmel know by July 10,

- whether or not you are attending,
- how many people are attending, and
- what dish you are bringing to share (appetizers, salad, hot dish or dessert).

2017 Monthly Plant Competition – June

- Andy Plasz

It was a very good selection of entries including a radish with the root in a vase of water. Remember that when thinking about your entries for the mini show in September. There were 5-6 competitors for best of show. The lilies were selected as best.

Name	Entry	Points
Best of the Show		
Karen O’Hayer	Asiatic Lilies	10
First Place		
Jerry Cleland	Dendrobium Orchid	5
Sarah O’Brien	Rose	5
Karen O’Hayer	Sundrops	5
Karen O’Hayer	Succulent garden	5
Karen O’Hayer	Radish	5
Janice Paulson	Fern	5
Janice Paulson	German Tak Weed	5
Janice Paulson	Lambiam	5
Andy Plasz	Henryii Clematis	5
Terry and Dale Vanderwerf	Poppy	5
Second Place		
Jerri Cleland	Phaleanopsis Orchid	3
Janice Paulson	Purple Orchid	3
Janice Paulson	Old Fasioned climbing rose	3

2017 Year to Date Results

Name	Points
Janice Paulson	73
Karen O’Hayer	65
Sarah O’Brien	40
Jerry Cleland	33
Andy Plasz	8
Cathy Nardo	5
Pat Scales	5
Terry and Dale Vanderwerf	5
Mark Scales	3

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.

Libertyville Community Gardens Open House

Stop by the Libertyville Community Garden Plots and be inspired by the vegetable gardens that flourish at this location. Tour the plots to see what gardeners are growing. Master Gardeners will be available on site to answer questions.

Time: July 22, 9 to 11 am

Location: 1200 American Way, Libertyville, IL 60048, directly behind The Chapel building.

Park at the far northeast corner of parking lot.



Mini Show on September 11

Bring the veggies, fruits, flowers or house plants that you grow in your garden or in the house for the mini show at our monthly meeting. It is a fun way to learn about many different varieties of plants, that the members bring. The rules are attached at the end of this newsletter.



June Meeting Photos



Garden Walk 2017



**Gardeners of Central Lake County
General Rules Garden Show September 11, 2017
JUDGING BEGINS AT 7:00PM**

Sections:

1. **Annual flowers:** open class, 1,2 or 3 stems, more if under 1 inch diameter for nice display
2. **Perennial flowers:** open class, 1,2 or 3 stems, more if under 1 inch diameter
3. **Herbs and Native Plants:** open class, 1,2 or 3 stems or planted in pot
4. **Roses:** open class, 1 stem per entry
5. **Fruits and Vegetables:** open class, 1 over 4", 3 or more for nice display of other sizes
6. **Horticultural Novelties/specialties,** shrubs /tree branches with leaves and flowers or seed heads displayed on butcher paper. Fresh or dried arrangements. Enter ornamentals, grasses and any other miscellaneous entry in vases.
7. **Potted foliage and flowering plants:** open class
8. **Junior Class, 18 years and younger:** Entries conforming to the above 7 classes

There will be a **limit of five total entries per member. Entries may be in any section, such as:
2 entries in Section #1 and 3 entries in Section #4,
No more than 1 entry of the same plant or variety per exhibitor; but multiple varieties, i.e. tomatoes permitted.

Entries will be received from 6:00PM to 7:00PM on September 11. Judging will start at 7:00PM

Please stage your entries in your own containers.
Containers will not be provided.

Please fill out your entry tag with **Section** number, plant **Variety** and your **Name** on **both** parts of the tag.
We will not use Class numbers
We will not use Exhibitor numbers
We recommend you use pre-printed address labels.

If there is an over-abundance or an under-abundance of plants in a section, the judges may subdivide sections to make the competition level appropriate.

MAKE SURE TO COMPLETE THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THE ENTRY TAG ALSO. Again, do not use Class or Exhibitor numbers here.




Section **Class** No Class #

Variety

Exhibitor's Number
Name
Address

1st <input type="checkbox"/> Award	2nd <input type="checkbox"/> Award	3rd <input type="checkbox"/> Award	Honorable <input type="checkbox"/> Mention
1st <input type="checkbox"/> Award	2nd <input type="checkbox"/> Award	3rd <input type="checkbox"/> Award	Honorable <input type="checkbox"/> Mention

Section **Class**
Variety
Exhibitor's Number
Name
Address

No Exhibitor #

Preparing for Exhibit

Flowers

Generally, flowers should be cut the afternoon or evening before the show to be at their best at the time of judging, but some fade quickly so a little practice ahead of time is helpful. Hardening over night in a cool, dark, draft-free room with stems deeply immersed in cold water often helps your blooms to maintain good condition. Avoid wetting the blooms.

Groom your entries carefully for the show. In most cases, flowers should be displayed with foliage. Clean the blooms as well as the foliage. Remove all spray or dust residues. Remove any blemished petals but don't leave any traces of that removal. Don't oil or wax the leaves. Clean them with a damp cloth and/or rub them gently with your fingers to bring out the natural gloss of the foliage.

Carefully handle and transport all entries. Keep the flowers separated to avoid breaking, tearing, and bruising the blooms and foliage. This takes a little extra time but it is often the difference between the winners and the others.

Generally speaking, very large blooms or individual rose blooms are displayed singly while medium to small blooms are displayed in 3's and 5's. They should 'stand up' out of their container and 'face' the judges in a pleasing form. Viewers should not touch entries prior to judging.

Potted plants

The same ideas apply as listed above but you must also be sure the pot is clean and not distracting. Outdoor pots do not need to be 'hidden' but they should not be cracked, mildewed, or otherwise obviously inadequate.

Vegetables

Choose specimens that are pleasing to you; if they are not you should probably skip entering them unless due to seasonal or other unusual conditions merely having a specimen is a triumph. Vegetables can be picked several days prior to the show provided they are kept in prime condition in cool or refrigerated conditions without loss of moisture.

Make sure you clean, trim, prune, and otherwise improve the appearance and symmetry; wash but do not scrub. Torn, loose, brown, spotted, and otherwise unpleasing material should be removed. Even the finest specimens may be damaged in harvesting, cleaning, storing, and transporting. Great care should be taken in this regard.

The most important elements in winning a prize are freshness, overall pleasing appearance, and uniformity in size, color, and shape. All other factors being equal, large size is of importance only where it indicates outstanding cultural practices and quality. Otherwise a moderate size is preferred.

All entries

Don't insist on perfection – the blue ribbon may be awarded to a winner less perfect than the one you decided not to bring. Do your best to make each entry pleasing to view. If you are unsure for any particular entry, ask one of the 'old pros' and they will be happy to assist.