

# 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.

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

**Volume 53, Issue 106 March 2017**

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

Hello, Gardeners.

The warm weather we had throughout much of February had people out walking and even working in their yards at a time when we're usually huddled up indoors. February is the time to daydream and make plans for the upcoming growing season. As we look at our dormant back yards, we imagine how things will look in spring, and think about which perennials need to be divided and what new varieties of annuals or vegetables we want to grow.

It's also the time to inventory our collection of seeds. Many of our club members are trying a new seed-starting method called winter sowing this year. I started several milk jug mini-greenhouses in February with seeds of hardy plants like kale and milkweed, and I plan to start several more in March with seeds of more tender plants. If you want to try this method and need advice, please contact [Cindy Julian](#). March is also the time to start seeds indoors under lights.

Whether you are experimenting with winter-sowing, starting seeds indoors, or making plans to divide your perennials, please be sure to donate as many plants as you can to our club's annual fund raiser, our plant sale, which will be held on May 13th. This year's plant sale will be



critical for the club because several of our members who contributed huge numbers of plants to the sale in the past have had to down-size and can't supply plants in the same quantity. That means the rest of us will

need to step up and do what we can to make the sale a success. Be on the lookout for opportunities to acquire/rescue plants (e.g. neighbors who are simplifying their gardens or sites that will be developed). If you would like help digging and dividing plants from your yard this spring, contact me or another board member and we'll get a crew out to help you. Many hands make light work!

Our February speaker was Dr. Rex Bastian who presented "The Soil Food Web - What You Need to Know". This was a fascinating talk and was very well attended. Our plant competition was judged by Cathy Nardo, and the winner was a lovely orchid. Thanks to our members who brought tasty treats and to Debbi Hoover for organizing the refreshments.

The Green Living Fair is set for Saturday, March 18th at the Civic Center in Libertyville. The Gardeners of Central Lake County will participate again this year by sharing our gardening know-how and showcasing our club's activities. If you can help, please contact Jan Kirch. This is always a fun event and a great opportunity to enhance our visibility in the community.



At the upcoming club meeting on March 13th, at 7:00 pm, our speaker will be Alison Parker, of Radical Root Farm. She will be presenting a talk entitled "The Importance of Organic Growing and Eating."

Hang in there. Spring is just around the corner!

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

**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

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### **Future Programs for 2017**

**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:**

**Corrie-Lou Glass**

383 Banbury Rd, Mundelein IL 60060

email: [corrielou@icloud.com](mailto:corrielou@icloud.com).

phone: 847-566-4248

Gardening Interests: Japanese gardening

Other interests: skiing, art works, woodcuts, painting

**Lisa Farrington**

759 Kenwood, Libertyville, IL 60048

Email: [Lisa\\_Frrngtn@yahoo.com](mailto:Lisa_Frrngtn@yahoo.com)

847-715-6182

Gardening interests: window boxes, perennials, vines

Other interests: SAP database, biking, hiking.

## 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!

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## 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.

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## Tee Shirt Sale

### - Delores O'Connell

Arlene Dorn has drawn a beautiful design that will make our T-shirt unique to our club. We hope to have a sample T-shirt available for our club meeting Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$10.00 and come in unisex sizes of S, M, L, XL, and XXL.

If possible we would like to have these shirts prepaid before we place our order. Please bring your check or cash in an envelope with your name on it to our meeting Monday night. If you will not be at the meeting and have not already indicated you would like a shirt, you can email me at [delores21@comcast.net](mailto:delores21@comcast.net) and place an order.

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## 2017 The Worm Still Turns

### Worm Casting will be Available

#### - Andy Plasz

The Gateway Rose Society of Southeastern Wisconsin being innovators in growing and trying out new interesting products is again making available a wonderful product for our gardens this spring. I am a member of Gateway and will have the ability to purchase for members of the Gardeners of Central Lake County, a natural fertilizer and soil amendment -Worm Castings – to make every garden even better. The worm castings will be available in 25 pound bags for \$20 each.

Now here is the deal, at the March and April 10 meeting, I will take orders for this wonderful stuff and will also take phone or e mail requests prior to April 10! I will get the castings as soon as possible and they should be available to the gardeners the weekend of April 15-16 or before. I will notify you to pick it up at the Plasz garden and pay at that time if you have not paid at the April 10 meeting. **Remember: I do not deliver.**

I will have the fact sheet and sign-up sheet at the April 10th meeting. In addition I will have directions available for those of you who want to plan ahead how to parcel and use this this wonderful treasure from Mother Nature! You may sign up then or before. **Don't be shut out!**

**Think Worms!!! Use Worms!! Enjoy the Amazing Results!**

## 2017 Monthly Plant Competition - February

### - Andy Plasz

In the month of February, we had three entries. beautiful Orchid, Begonia and Coleus.

Name	Entry	Points	Total Points
Best of the Show Sarah O ' Brien	Orchid	10	10
Karen O'Hare	Begonia	5	15
Janice Paulson	Coleus	5	5

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.

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## 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/>

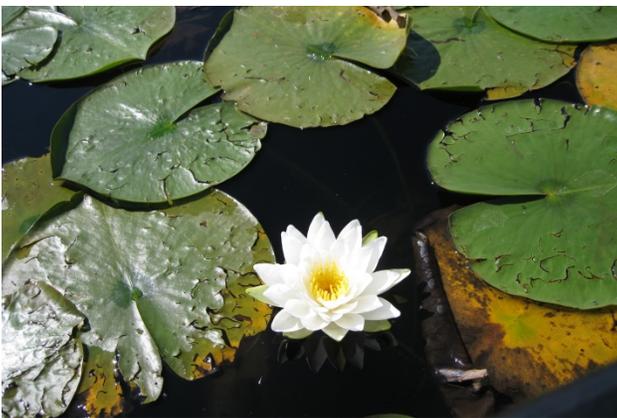
Once the judging is complete at the national convention, all of the submitted photos are then re-entered into a separate competition for the national calendar, published each year by the Gardeners of America. From that contest, thirteen photos are chosen to be printed in a large 8" x 11" format in the Gardeners of America calendar; one cover photo and then one photo for each month of the year. In addition, a smaller 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" 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>

Finally, at the local level, the club also creates its own calendar each year. All of the photos which were entered for the club competition in January are reviewed by the club's Calendar Committee and those selected are used to create a Gardeners of Central Lake County calendar. That calendar is available each year for about \$10.

In summary, the photos are reviewed in four places each year: club competition, national convention competition, national calendar competition and club calendar selection. Interestingly enough, there is often not a great deal of overlap in the "best" photos selected at each of these times. The first photo I had selected for the national calendar did not receive a very high rating by the judges at the national convention. But these variations in quality assessment should not surprise gardeners because this is not too different from the selection process at flower shows across various locations and across various flower show judges. The joy is in the process, and if others select your work for additional praise that is a bonus.



### Photo Contest Photos from past



### February Meeting Photos



7th Annual

# GREEN LIVING FAIR

SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2017

10am - 2pm

Libertyville Civic Center • 135 W Church Street • Libertyville IL



Sponsored by

**Libertyville Civic Center Foundation**

**Admission is FREE!**

in partnership with Lake County Green Congregations and Faith In Place

## Educational & Resource Opportunities

Sustainable Living • Green Shopping • Gardening  
Organic Farming • Recycling and Reducing Waste  
Composting • Green Cleaning

## Recycling Opportunities

### INDOORS

DVDs • CDs • Ink Jet Cartridges • Cell Phones • Gym Shoes  
Eyeglasses • Hearing Aids • Wine Corks • Xmas lights

### OUTDOORS

Bikes • Bike Parts • Styrofoam Blocks

**NO  
Electronics Truck**

**NO Plastic Bags**

## 8 Speaker Forums

Ecologically Responsible

Eat Healthy

Shop Local

Reduce Waste





# Speaker Forum

Start Time	Room A (North Room)	Room B
10:30 AM	<p><b>CASEY ROAD FARMLAND RETIREMENT AND RESTORATION PROJECT</b></p> <p><b>Kathleen O'Connor, Libertyville Township Supervisor</b>, will share the 2-year planning process and the long-term restoration activities the Township will undertake to convert 303 acres of farm fields to natural areas.</p>	<p><b>FAITH IN PLACE: CONNECTING PEOPLE, PLACE, AND MOVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Susana Figueroa, Faith in Place Lake County Outreach Director</b>, will share her experience with local environmental projects, collaborations with other faith-based organizations in Lake County, and with the <i>Migration &amp; Me</i> program.</p>
11:15 AM	<p><b>WHAT'S UP WITH SOLAR IN ILLINOIS</b></p> <p><b>Lisa Albrecht, Illinois Solar Energy Association (ISEA) Vice President, Policy Committee Chair</b> will provide an update on the status of solar energy in Illinois. In December 2016, the governor signed an important bill that will increase access to solar as we leap toward a clean energy economy!</p>	<p><i>Migration &amp; Me</i> connects people, place, and movement through story circle events. Personal and family stories of migration are shared, and are then connected to those of monarch butterflies, birds, and other living beings who migrate for survival. We come to understand that we are not that different from one another: all seek food, water, safety, and shelter along the journeys and at their destinations. Connecting these migration stories and spending time learning about the natural world, inspires participants to conservation and better Earth care.</p>
12:30 PM	<p><b>CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH OUR FOOD CHOICES</b></p> <p><b>Rachel Shippee Factory Farming Awareness Coalition Chicago Director</b> --Love food? Want to help the world? You're in luck! Our food choices are one of the most powerful ways we can help stop everything from climate change and deforestation, to heart disease and diabetes. Learn about the impacts of our food choices on the health of our environment, our communities, and our bodies. You will leave feeling empowered to make small changes in your daily meals that add up to big changes globally.</p>	<p><b>ILLINOIS AIR QUALITY, CHILDREN'S HEALTH, AND WHAT <u>YOU</u> CAN DO ABOUT IT</b></p> <p><b>Kelly Nichols, Moms Clean Air Force Illinois Field Consultant</b> will discuss the reality of the air quality issues that we deal with in Lake County, as well as some steps you can take to improve the air we breathe.</p> <p>Moms Clean Air Force is a national organization organization that focuses on advocacy and education about clean air and health impacts of pollution and climate change.</p>
1:15 PM	<p><b>PLANNING A ZERO WASTE EVENT</b></p> <p><b>Julie Nowak, Citizens' Climate Lobby Lake County Chapter Group Leader</b>, will discuss a collection of tips and traps for planning a zero-, or low-waste event. She will share the steps her family took in planning and executing an anniversary celebration which included about 80 guests.</p>	<p><b>CLEAN POWER LAKE COUNTY UPDATE</b></p> <p><b>Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts, Christ Episcopal Church, Waukegan</b> will speak about the impact of the coal plant on Lake County's air and water and ways to join in the move toward clean energy in our communities.</p>