

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 113 November 2017

President's Message: by Karen O'Hayer

Greetings Gardeners,

True fall weather is upon us at last. The leaves are turning and the air is crisp, if not downright chilly. Today I picked the last of my peppers and tomatoes. It seems like summer went by way too fast this year. But, I do look forward to once again experimenting with winter-sowing, so the growing season isn't quite over yet.

The speaker at our October meeting was Eileen Davis, from the education Department of the Lake County



Forest Preserves. She gave a very interesting talk on Growing Native Plants from Seed. This was a very timely presentation, since our 3rd annual seed swap is just around the corner.

If you have preordered the club's 2018 calendar, you will be able to purchase (\$10 each) and pick up your calendar(s) at the November meeting.

Many thanks to Janice Paulson and Grant Hoover for putting together another stunning calendar!

We will also have copies of the 2018 National calendar available for purchase at the November meeting. Nine of our members have photos in this calendar, which I believe is a record! Congratulations to Janice Paulson, Debbi Hoover, Delores O'Connell, Cindy Julian, Jerry Cleland, Pat Meehan, Grant Hoover, Andy Plasz, and Susan Plasz. As always, a big thank-you goes out to Jerry Cleland for coordinating our yearly club photo

contest and our submissions to the National calendar contest.

We will be holding our third annual seed swap at the November meeting.

Please bring the seeds you'd like to share in a container or envelope, labeled with the plant name, year collected, where collected, collector's name, and any special germination requirements. You may also bring full or partial commercial seed packets. We will provide all the supplies needed to label and package samples of the seeds you'd like to take home. In addition you may bring garden-related items such as pots, tools, and books that you would like to swap. At the meeting, members will be invited to stand up and share their experiences with seed starting or demonstrate seed starting techniques. Let's make this a real information-sharing session so we can all improve our success with growing plants from seed.

The November meeting is also our ever-popular pie social. Don't forget to bring your favorite sweet or savory pastry and a good appetite.

We are looking for a couple of enthusiastic club members to fill two open positions beginning in 2018. We need a member to coordinate refreshments at our club meetings. Debbi Hoover, who has served in this role for the past two years, will be happy to explain what is involved. Please let her know if you have an interest in this position.

We are also seeking a member to take over the role of 1st Vice President and Programs Chair. This person will be a member of our Board of Directors and will schedule the speakers for our clubs meetings. Delores O'Connell has served us very well in this role for a number of years and is ready to take a well-deserved break. So, please let her know if you have an interest in this position.

It is vital that our members step up and take on positions within the club so we can continue to maintain the high quality programs and activities that we offer to our members and to the community we support. Please consider helping our club to grow and prosper by sharing your talents!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Holiday Party and Annual Dinner on Sunday, December 3rd, at the St. Lawrence Episcopal Church in Libertyville. Setup is at 3 pm, reception at 4 pm, and dinner at 5 pm.

This Month's Club Activity:

November 13

Seed Swap

Pie Social

Future Programs for 2017

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/>

Seed Swap in November

The Gardeners of Central Lake County will be hosting our third annual seed swap at the November 13th meeting. Even if you don't have seeds to share, you are welcome and encouraged to participate. Please come, and take home seeds of a few new varieties to try in your garden next spring.

A reminder for those bringing seeds to the swap: please bring each seed type in a separate container labeled with:

- Plant name (the common plant name as well as the scientific name, if you know it)
- The year and location (e.g. Mundelein, IL) where the seeds were collected,
- The seed collector's name,
- A photo of the plant, if available
- Any special requirements for germination

Purchased, commercial seed packets (either full or partially used) are great contributions to the seed swap.

We will have tables set up with sections for various plant types (vegetables, herbs, annual flowers, perennials). Members bringing seeds will place their containers in the appropriate areas. Small envelopes and pens/pencils for labeling will be provided. Club members will then circulate around the tables and transfer seeds, along with the relevant information, from the original container to the small envelopes provided.

If you are collecting seed from plants growing in your garden, remember to avoid collecting seed from hybrid

varieties, since the seed will not 'breed true'. In other words, it will not produce plants with the typical characteristics of the hybrid variety.

The seed swap is a great opportunity to do what we gardeners all love: share plants and information with other gardeners. We will also invite members to share information on seed collecting or seed starting at the November meeting. Here's to another successful plant swap!

2018 Garden Club Dues

It seems a bit early to be writing about 2018, but actually we only have two meetings and a party before the New Year is upon us.

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.

This year there is another reason we are hoping to collect dues a little earlier.

Dale Vanderwerff has generously volunteered to be the new club treasurer, and both Dale and I are out of town in January of 2018.

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 November meeting.

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

Arlene Doran
Treasurer

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.



2017 Monthly Plant Competition – October - Andy Plaszc

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.

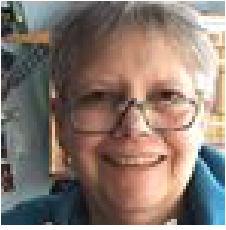
Name	Entry	Points
Best of the Show Sarah O'Brien	Coleus Lace Stockings	10
First Place		
Cathy Nardo	Corizin Rosemary	5
Karen O'Hayer	Succulent Garden	5
Karen O'Hayer	Poblano Peppers	5
Karen O'Hayer	Shoshin Peppers	5
Janice Paulson	Dusty Miller	5
Janice Paulson	Pink Impatiens	5
Pat Scales	Butternut Squash	5
Second Place		
Janice Paulson	Orange Impatiens	3

2017 Year to Date Results

Name	Points
Janice Paulson	96
Karen O'Hayer	90
Sarah O'Brien	50
Jerry Cleland	33
Cathy Nardo	10
Pat Scales	10
Andy Plaszc	8
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.

In the July Secateur, I had both Janice Paulson's and Karen O'Hayer's Year to Date results 10 points lower than they should have been. But with Janice correctly 8 points in the lead. I have corrected that and added the October results below. These two outstanding gardeners are now only 6 points apart with just November to go. Best of luck ladies!



Terri Vanderwerff
-Karen O'Hayer

Our friend and club member Terri Vanderwerff passed away on October 27th. Terri and her husband Dale were both members of our club and served on our governing board. She was a very caring and generous person, and her smile could light up a room.

Our club's publicity chairman, Cindy Julian, was approached by a local reporter to share a few words about Terri. Here are Cindy's thoughts as reported in the November 2nd Libertyville Review article by Rick Kambic. They truly capture Terri's spirit and her wonderful relationship with her husband Dale:
"They're very genuine, selfless people," Julian said. "It's upsetting to think about her not being at our board meeting on Wednesday. I can't imagine not seeing her friendly smile ever again."

"Whenever the club president or an event organizer needed help," Julian said, "it was one of the Vanderwerffs who would always speak up first. "Terri would look at Dale or Dale would look at Terri and they'd say, 'We can do that, right?'" Julian recalled. "The answer was always yes. They're so devoted and passionate and giving."
We will miss Terri greatly.

Terri and Dale's garden



Tears of Joy **-Janice Paulson**

Tears of joy that Terri was in our lives

Endearing and loving to her dearest

Rachel and Aaron

Riches of love to her beloved Dale

In our memories and hearts forever

October Meeting Photos



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 10th 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 10th 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 Plaszczyk 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

