

# THE SECATEUR



Gardeners of Central Lake County

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

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

Hello, Gardeners.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of visiting the Brookfield Zoo with my 87-year old mother. I grew up near the zoo and spent many hours there as a kid. My zoo-crazed father loved nothing better than loading the family into the station wagon and heading for the zoo. Neither heat, cold, wind, rain or snow could keep us away.

Of course, as a kid, I never realized quite what an amazing place it was. On this visit I was struck by how lovely the gardens are. The beautiful Roosevelt fountain is surrounded by a gorgeous garden incorporating a huge variety of flowering plants. We visited a butterfly exhibit with a wonderful collection of live butterflies, all native to North America. Also included in the exhibit was an outdoor monarch way station. And we rode the carousel, which in addition to the usual lions and tigers, included insect rides: praying mantis, cicada, and lady beetle. How fun is that?



Speaking of fun, we held our annual picnic at Old School Forest Preserve on July 14. The weather cooperated, and we had a relaxing and enjoyable time, complete with

wonderful raffle prizes, delicious potluck items, and great conversation. Thanks to our many members who helped with the picnic, including Andy Kimmel for taking reservations, Dale and Terri Vanderwerff for purchasing raffle prizes and ordering/picking up the chicken, Laurie and Chuck Austin for supplying plates/cups and

**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!](#)**

everything else needed to serve the food, Andy Plaszc for running the raffle, Janice Paulson for mosquito abatement, and to our many members who helped with set-up and clean-up.

On July 22, we held an open house at the Libertyville



Community Gardens. Thanks to Yung Borodkin for being on hand, along with another colleague from the Lake County Master Gardener program, to answer questions on vegetable gardening. It's

always fun to walk around the gardens and see the variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers being raised in the garden plots.

We will be holding our annual mini-show at our meeting



on September 11. Be sure to look around your yard and see what is blooming, fruiting or otherwise providing a wow factor. Sometimes a leaf or a branch can be as stunning as a flower, so think outside

the box. During the judging, we invite club members to share garden-related information, so come prepared to tell us about your favorite gardening tool, a new gardening technique or plant variety you tried this year, or anything else you'd like to share.

I hope to see you all at our September meeting. Don't forget that in addition to our mini-show we will also be having our annual veggie tasting. So, bring along a sweet or savory veggie-based dish to share. See you there!

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

**September 11**

**Mini Flower Show, Veggie Tasting**

### **Future Programs for 2017**

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

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**For useful gardening articles go to:**

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

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### **Seed Swap in November**

The Gardeners of Central Lake County will hold a seed swap during our November meeting. Now is the time to start preparing for the swap. Take a look around your yard and decide which plants you'd like to collect seeds from. Good candidates are your favorite varieties of vegetables or annual flowers. They need to be heirloom or open-pollinated varieties, rather than hybrids.

Also consider collecting seeds from native perennials. These plants are well adapted to the



environment of Lake County and help support our native fauna, including pollinators. Although getting native perennial seeds to germinate can be tricky, many of our club members have

had success using various techniques. We should be getting some great advice on this topic at our October meeting, where a speaker from the Lake County Forest Preserves will present a program on Growing Native Plants from Seed.

This is also a good time to start saving small bottles and containers for your seeds. Empty medicine containers work well for small seeds or small quantities of seeds. Be sure to allow the seeds to thoroughly dry before you put them in containers. Label each container with the plant name and the year the seeds were collected. Looking forward to another great seed swap!

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### **Saving Seed –**

The Importance, Benefits and How To Do It  
Fremont Public Library - Meeting Room A & B

Thursday, September 14: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

AGE GROUP: ADULTS

EVENT TYPE: ADULT PROGRAM

Explore the basics of seed saving for vegetables and flowers with horticulture instructor Donna Hisson.

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## Garden Walk Recap

Once again we had a wonderful Garden Walk on June 24th. I would like to thank the volunteers who staffed the gardens.

Laurie Austin, Sue Gressgott, Andy Kimmel, Delores O'Connell, Karen O'Hayer, Janice Paulson, Carolyn Raymond, Dale and Terri Vanderwerff, and Sue Worley.



It is our great team of volunteers that really enhance visitor's experience and enhance our club's good reputation in the community. There is a lot that happens

before the day of the walk too. Many thanks to Cindy Julian for publicity, Subhash Deodhar for putting maps together, Chuck Austin for getting maps printed, Delores O'Connell for organizing the pre-walk, and of course thanks to Karen O'Hayer for writing descriptions, contacting gardeners and keeping us on track.

Our Garden hosts enjoyed the Garden Walk experience and included our own member Donna Hughes. If you have been thinking about volunteering your garden for the Walk, I would highly recommend it. A fair amount of work to get ready and maybe a little stress, but really a rewarding experience.

We counted over 300 guests, and for the second year we included a mini native plant sale that was well received. Thanks to our ambitious growers who brought plants; Jerry Cleland, Cindy Julian, Andy Kimmel, and Karen O'Hayer.

Between the raffle and the mini native plant sale the club made \$393.00.

Not bad for a free garden walk

Now the excitement begins for the 2018 walk!

## 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.

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## Picnic 2017



**Gardeners of Central Lake County  
Garden Show General Rules - 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 permitted, i.e. tomatoes.

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 or combine 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 Exhibits**

### **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.