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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.

Volume 54 Issue 116 February 2018

President's Message by Karen O'Hayer

We were lucky to once again have local nature photographer Joan Sayre and her husband Jim present at our January meeting. They shared two programs, the first entitled "Flowers of Oregon" and the second called "Frost on the Windows." Joan's photographs are always an inspiration and remind us that nature's beauty is all around us, sometimes even in the most unlikely places.

We had our annual photography competition at the January meeting. Thanks to Jerry Cleland for preparing the photos and running the contest. Club members had an opportunity to vote for their favorite images. The 20 highest scoring photos will be entered in a contest at the national level. We had some really stunning entries! Since I've been a member of the club, our photos have gotten better every year. Thanks to all our contestants for participating and helping the club to advance its knowledge and appreciation of photography.

We like a little friendly completion, whether in photography or in gardening. It was good to see a number of beautiful entries in our monthly plant competition during the January meeting. Like our photo contest, our plant competitions seem to get better over time. Thanks to our judges, Jerry Cleland, Andy Plasz, and Cathy Nardo. They make it a habit to share their knowledge each month by explaining their rationale for choosing the winning entry, helping us all to learn and improve.

The Green Living Fair is set for Saturday, March 17, at the Civic Center in Libertyville, and the Gardeners of Central Lake County be participating again this year. This is a great opportunity for our club to get exposure within the community. If you'd like to help out by

sharing gardening information and showcasing our club's activities at this event, please contact Jan Kirch.

February is the perfect time to start seeds of native perennials and cold-hardy veggies in plastic milk jugs placed outdoors. I highly recommend this fun, easy, and fascinating propagation method called winter sowing. If you're feeling adventurous, give it a try! Several of our club members have successfully used this technique, so don't hesitate to reach out for advice.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Monday, February 12 at 7:00 pm, at the CrossLife Church in Libertyville, where our program will be "Excellence is in our Nature" by Katherine Hamilton-Smith of the Lake County Forest Preserves.

This Month's Club Activity:

February 12

Excellence is in our Nature

Katherine Hamilton-Smith

Director of Public Affairs and Development,
Lake County Forest Preserve District.

What Forest Preserve does and also info on planting natives and eliminating invasives.

Future Programs for 2018

March 12

Gardening Myths and Mis-information: Barriers to Good Gardening

Sharon Yiesla

April 9th

Growing Orchids at Home

Jerry Cleland

How to take care of your Orchid at home

May 12

Plant Sale

Crawford Warming House

8:30-11 am

May 14

"Divide and Multiply: When to Divide What (And How)" – Beth Botts

June 11

Mini Flower Show/Members Forum

June 23

Garden Walk

July 20

Annual Picnic

Old School Forest Preserve, Shelter D
5 pm

Sept. 10

"Seeds That Are Good for Your Health" / Veggie Tasting

Rekha Deodhar

Oct. 8

Backyard Birds and Bird Feeding

David Brooks, Spring Valley Nature Center

Learn the "how to" of attracting a variety of birds to your yard with feeding stations and food plantings. Program will include a who's-who of common local birds and some of the migrants to be observed in spring and fall.

Nov. 12

Pie Social

Dec. 9

Holiday Party and Annual Dinner

For useful gardening articles go to:

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

Welcome New Member:

Please give a warm welcome to our latest member Barbara Merchant. Barbara lives in Ingleside, Illinois.



She joined the club at the January meeting though she has visited before. Now that Barbara has retired, she can devote time to the club. She enjoys the forest and wants to

know about plants that would do well in the forest. Her hobbies include stain glass and doing bead jewelry.

Green Living Fair 2018

The Gardeners of Central Lake County will again participate in the Green Living Fair on Saturday, March 17TH 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 one of over 40 exhibitors including, College of Lake County, 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 thirty-minute

break-out sessions which focus on environmental issues. This year's speaker forums will address how we, as individuals, can respond to the issue of climate change.

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 one-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 12TH, to exchange ideas and to plan our exhibit. Questions? Email Jan Kirch at ideasjan1217@comcast.net or call (224) 541-4374.

Winter Sowing by Cindy Julian

Winter sowing is an easy germination method that starts many seedlings for just pennies. During winter, seeds are sown into mini-greenhouses that you make yourself from recyclables (milk jugs, plastic soda bottles, take out containers, etc.) After sowing, the mini-greenhouse is placed outside to wait for the end of winter. Seeds can be started January-April and will be happy with snow coverage or rainstorms. The seeds will begin to germinate in their own time as weather warms.

Winter sowing is most successful with seeds from perennials rated for our Illinois climate and for hardy annuals which withstand a period of cold. Less hardy annuals and vegetables are also candidates for winter sowing; they just need to be put out in early and mid-April.

Your choice of container is only as limited as your imagination; however, it is important for the container to be deep enough to hold at least three inches of dirt. Create drainage holes in the bottom of containers. You can use a knife, scissors, cordless drill, or any other tool of your choice. Just be careful. It is important for the

containers to have plenty of drainage. If you are using milk jugs or soda bottles, simply leave the lids off to allow for moisture and air to enter this way. Cut the container in the middle a little over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around, leaving a "hinge" for opening the entire top portion.

It is important to use potting mix and not garden soil. Wet down the potting mix, sow seeds on top of the soil, and cover with potting mix according to packet directions. How many seeds you wish to plant is up to you. If you want your plants spaced out, sow more sparingly. If you want many seedlings, sow more heavily.

Label your container. You can use plant labels or popsicle sticks to stick in the dirt inside the container. Pencil works fairly well, as do Sharpies, although these both fade eventually. It doesn't hurt to label your container using a couple methods as a precautionary method. Some winter sowers write with a Sharpie on the milk jug, some write the plant name on tape on the bottom of the container, and others swear paint pens never fade.

Tape the containers closed. I use duct tape. Place your winter sown containers outside. Just make sure the containers are in a spot where they will receive adequate moisture. They do best in a southern exposure where the sun is strongest, and the containers act as mini-greenhouses.

There aren't strict guidelines when to winter sow. I usually start my winter sowing end of January and continue through February. Not a lot of care is required for your containers once they're outside. Doubt creeps in, and you begin to wonder whether putting jugs full of dirt out in the snow was the best idea you've had. But then they appear: tiny green sprouts!

I have had great success and each year try new varieties. I have planted:

Perennials: Amsonia, balloon flower, coneflower, mountain mint, calamint, agastache, Jupiter's beard, dwarf goat's beard, tiarella (foam flower), meadow rue, great blue lobelia, monarda fistulosa, salvia

Annuals: Dahlia seed, cuphea, snapdragon, alyssum, cleome, browallia, petunia, coleus, zinnia

Vegetable/herb: Arugula, spinach, kale, parsley, cilantro, collards, basil, broccoli, onion seed

Notes: Great yield of perennials. Annuals may take longer to bloom but eventually catch up. I start peppers and tomatoes inside early so they are of good size for the plant sale.

Excited to get started for this year! Good luck!

Credit:

<http://www.bachmans.com/files/GardenGuide/WinterSowingGuide.pdf>

2018 Photo Contest by Jerry Cleland

The 2018 Photo Contest was held at our January meeting; the theme for this year's contest was "Water." A total of 80 photos were submitted by 17 members to be entered into the contest. By contrast, last year there were 67 photo entries submitted by 16 members. Our members and visitors chose the top 20 photos by using a secret ballot on which they would mark their favorite 12 photographs. In the end, 346 individual photo numbers were entered on the ballot cards, and there was a tie for the best photo of the contest. Pat Meehan and Andy Plasz each entered a photo that received 13 votes. Photos by Susan Gressgott, Rekha Deodhar, and Karen O'Hayer completed the top 5 places. Congratulations to each of these members and to all of our other members who entered photos for making this year's contest another successful and high-quality event.

Next year the photo contest theme is "Art and Architecture," so we hope our members will continue to photograph plant- and garden-related subjects while also uniquely incorporating subjects from the annual theme into their photos. As always, there is no requirement that photos entered into the contest must contain thematic objects. Members who have entered the contest in the past report that having a theme makes the process more interesting both in terms of finding subjects for their own photographs and also in viewing how other members interpreted the theme. Member participation was good again this year, and we hope that will continue forward in the upcoming years.

We especially encourage members who have not participated in the past to consider submitting their own garden-related photos to our contest that will be held in January 2019. As seen in previous contests, entering a winning photo does not require an expensive camera. Many of the winning photos for the past several years have been taken with cell phone cameras.

While it may take a couple of tries for a newcomer to be selected as one of the top 20 photos, our goal in beginning this contest over 10 years ago was to make ourselves better garden photographers. As you witnessed in the photos displayed for this year's contest, we improve our skills each year.

January 2018 Monthly Plant Competition by Andy Plasz

We had three members bring in five very good entries for the January meeting. You, too, must have something that you could bring in a future month for the enjoyment of our members.



Results of January 2018 Plant Competition		
Name	Plant name	Points
Best of Show		
Jerry Cleland	Cattleya Orchid	10
First Place		
Janice Paulson	Spotted Yellow Orchid	5
Janice Paulson	Madagascar Palm	5
Dale Vanderwerff	Christmas Cactus	5
Dale Vanderwerff	African Violet	5

2018 Year-to-Date Plant Competition	
Name	Points
Jerry Cleland	10
Janice Paulson	10
Dale Vanderwerff	10

Lake County Biodiversity by Karen O'Hayer

I recently discovered a fascinating website, maintained by the Lake County Forest Preserve District, called [Lake County Plants and Animals](#). I've been looking for a resource like this, and I'm excited to share this recent discovery with you.

Whether you are interested in the flora and fauna of a particular local forest preserve or trying to determine whether a particular bird, mammal, or plant is found within the Lake County Forest Preserve system, this website can help. The information in the database is compiled from formal plant and wildlife monitoring programs conducted within the forest preserves.

By selecting "All" for Preserve Name, choosing the type of organism you are interested in under Type and then clicking Search, you will find a list of the species of that organism type found within the database.

<http://www.lcpd.org/lake-county-species/>

The database includes 2588 species of organisms, including trees (85), shrubs (83), forbs (674), grasses

(99), birds (209), and mammals (33). Birders will appreciate that 112 of the 209 bird species are found in Rollins Savana, one of our local birding hot spots. So, I hope you enjoy this database and find something of interest about the very special and diverse area we live in.

January Meeting Photos



8th Annual

GREEN LIVING FAIR

SATURDAY MARCH 17, 2018

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

8 Speaker Forums

**NO
Electronics Truck**

NO Plastic Bags

Ecologically Responsible

Eat Healthy

Shop Local

Reduce Waste



Don't forget
to bring your
own bags



Compost



Cleland Cabin Rainbow



Cleland Fall Colors



Deodhar, R Vernon Hills Yard



Deodhar, S Andaman India



Greesgott Sunset Lake



Hoover, D Cormorant Dogwood



Hoover, D White Lotus



Julian Frog Lily Pond



Julian Zinnia Butterflies



Kimmel Daylily Leaves



Kimmel Fungi



Meehan River



Meehan Snow sunset



O'Hayer Coneflower



Paulson Crabapple Snow



Plasz A Veterans Honor



Plasz, A CO Blue Spruce



Thompson Statues pond



Valente - Waterfall ice



van der Wagt, J - Iguazu Falls

Votes	Photo #	2018 Photo Contest Names
13	43	Meehan Snow sunset
13	64	Plasz A Veterans Honor Snow
11	22	Greesgott Sunset Lake
10	10	Deodhar, R Vernon Hills Yard
10	56	O'Hayer Coneflower water
9	1	Cleland Cabin Rainbow
9	2	Cleland Fall Colors
9	11	Deodhar, S Andaman India
8	28	Hoover, D White Lotus
8	35	Kimmel Fungi
8	66	Plasz, A Colorado Blue Spruce
7	24	Hoover, D Cormorant Dogwood
7	33	Julian Zinnia Butterflies
7	77	Valente Waterfall ice
7	80	van der Wagt Iguazu Falls Argentina
6	29	Julian Frog Lily Pond
6	34	Kimmel Daylily Leaves
6	42	Meehan River
6	59	Paulson Crabapple Snow
6	71	Thompson Statues pond

2018 Final Photos