



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.gardenersofcentralakecounty.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 54, Issue 122 September 2018

President's Message: by Karen O'Hayer

Hello Gardeners,

Here we are, coming back from our August hiatus. Hope you enjoyed the month off from garden club activities and had some quality time with Mother Nature. I enjoyed a fabulous visit to the Chicago Botanic Gardens recently, complete with a cooking demonstration at the vegetable gardens. In my own veggie garden this year I'm having good luck with kale, chard, peppers, beets and basil. The squirrels have been harvesting half of my tomatoes before I get to them and recently a new challenge has reared its tiny head.

Brown marmorated stink bugs are feeding on some of my tomato fruits this year and causing damage. The damaged tomatoes are perfectly edible, but they are riddled with yellow splotches. Some of you know that I'm an entomologist by training, and I prefer the live and let live philosophy when it comes to most insects. But when an insect goes after my tomatoes, that's a different story. So I decided to investigate the brown marmorated stink bug. This insect is native to Eastern Asia, was first reported in the U.S. in Pennsylvania in 2001, and is now found in at least 40 states, including Illinois. It has a very wide host range, meaning it can feed on a large variety of unrelated plants. In my own yard I have found it on peppers, tomatoes, and the native perennial rattlesnake master. The best control approach for the home gardener is to knock the adults and nymphs into a container of soapy water, where they quickly drown. Happy hunting! See the link below if you'd like more information:

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74169.html>

We held our annual picnic at Old School Forest Preserve on July 20. The weather cooperated, and we had a great time, complete with fabulous raffle prizes, delicious food

and great conversation. Thanks to Pat Meehan who took reservations, Janice Smith who purchased the raffle prizes, Dale Vanderwerff who ordered the chicken and Andy Kimmel who picked it up at Mariano's. A big thank-you to Laurie and Chuck Austin for supplying plates/cups and everything else needed to serve the food, Andy Plasz for running the raffle, Janice Paulson for mosquito abatement, and to our many members who helped with set-up and clean-up.

The speaker for our September 10 club meeting will be our own Rekha Deodhar, who will present a program, titled "Seeds that are Good for Your Health." We will also hold our annual Veggie Tasting at the September meeting, so bring along a sweet or savory veggie-based dish to share. Hope to see you there!

This Month's Club Activity:

Sept. 10

"Seeds That Are Good for Your Health"

Rekha Deodhar

Veggie Tasting: Bring with you sweet or savory veggie-based dish to share.

Future Programs for 2018

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 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/>

Photo Contest

-Jerry Cleland

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.

New veggies in our garden!

-Subhash Deodhar

I like to experiment new vegetables to plant and grow. This year one of our garden club member brought some seed packets from Bear Creek Heirloom Seeds nursery. I picked up few seeds/packets that looked interesting. Along with the usual tomatoes, cucumber, peppers we planted these seeds. We have started to harvest results of this experiment.

Melon Long Ex Snake – It looked like a gourd that is a common vegetable in India. The seeds had a hard shell,



thus were difficult to germinate. It is a vining plant, so I planted it accordingly. The fruit is long curvy like snake, thus the name Snake Gourd. Couple of fruits straightened out under its own weight, and grew to be four feet long. It was a treat to eat, since it is rarely available in this country.

Tennessee Sweet Potato Squash - The planting instructions on the packet were similar to Butternut



squash which I had grown in the past. The seeds were easy to germinate. The vine spread quickly and flowered similar to Butternut squash. The fruits are not as plenty, but they are huge. The packet says it tastes like

sweet potato. Since it is a winter squash, not ready to eat yet.

Bean Dolico-Occhio Nerone - Italian origin green beans. I have always grown beans, so this one looked like an easy



task. I planted seeds directly in the ground. They were quick to germinate. The packet said Bush beans, so I chose the location accordingly. But when the plants showed signs of being a vine, I had to make a provision for a support. Sure enough the vines have grown at least 6 feet high, and still trying to go higher in the air. We are picking plenty of beans, which are slender 6 to 8 inches long. They are stringless when tender, but become stringy and develop seeds very quickly. The taste is good but not outstanding.



Tomato Egg Yolk – I started the seeds in mid-April by winter sowing method. Nothing happened for a month, so I almost discarded the milk jug. In late May, the seeds started germinating all at once. The packet said extra-long vines, so I have planted them accordingly.

Sure enough they are growing tall (not spreading). The fruits are the size of cherry tomatoes, but yellow in color. They are watery and not as firm as cherry tomatoes.

Bean Saxa – the packet says bush beans popular in Germany and Netherland thrive in cooler conditions as compared to other beans. So I have planted them in early August. The plants are growing; hopefully the beans will be ready to pick by late September.

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.

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!

Picnic Photos

