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| President | Val Munchez-van der Wagt | 847-984-2630 |
| 1st V.P. | Delores O'Connell | 847-566-4223 |
| 2nd V.P. | Janice Paulson | 847-680-7118 |
| Treasurer | Arlene Doran | 847-427-9502 |
| Recording Secretary | Open | |
| Newsletter Editor | Rekha Deodhar | 847-899-6739 |
| email: | deodhar91@gmail.com | |
| Newsletter Co-editor | Chuck Austin | 847-587-6933 |

DIRECTORS: Cindy Julian, Chuck Austin, Jan van der Wagt, Donna Hughes, Corrie Glass, and Pat Scales
Past Presidents: Susan Plasz, Andy Plasz, Tony Kirch, Jerry Cleland, Andy Kimmel, Karen O'Hayre

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 Garden Club](#)

Volume 56, Issue 140 April 2020

**President's Message:
 - by Val Munchez-Van der Wagt**

Greetings to my fellow Gardeners,
 We are living in unusual times, or to quote John Lennon, Strange Days Indeed!

For my President's message debut, it's a little disconcerting to announce the cancellation of our next three meetings. In case you did not receive the email, here is the statement that was communicated this weekend:

Each day COVID-19 changes how we go about our business, attendance of events and anticipated gatherings. For that reason, the Board met online and agreed to suspend all meetings through June, including cancellation of the 2020 Plant Sale. We recognize that safety is of the utmost importance to you and your family at this time and for the foreseeable future.

We will communicate periodically as we see opportunities or changes in our ability to gather again to enjoy each other's company and passion for gardening. We struggled with trying to estimate when it would be safe to hold meetings again, given the emergency orders in place, local and state, and the number of resources that are either closed until further notice or into April.

We cannot foresee an exact date when we can reconvene, and many activities require preparatory work which will be difficult to schedule without a firm footing. Please be assured we did not make the decision lightly and will provide updates as more information is available.

We will continue to hold our monthly Board meetings, by conference call, and monitor the situation.

COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our individual and collective lives - for the moment. However I am

sure we all anticipate getting to the other side of this and back in our gardens and back to our meetings. In the interim some interesting suggestions have been offered up and we will investigate what we can do virtually, more to come. With such a fantastic program our goal is to reschedule in the future. As you know, the situation is fluid and can have dramatic swings – we will keep you posted!

It's a great time to reflect upon our roots, pun intended. Our garden society started as a result of another challenging time. The History Channel reminds us that - "Throughout both world wars, the Victory Garden campaign served as a successful means of boosting morale, expressing patriotism, safeguarding against food shortages on the home front, and easing the burden on the commercial farmers working arduously to feed troops and civilians overseas. In 1942, roughly 15 million families planted victory gardens; by 1944, an



estimated 20 million victory gardens produced roughly 8 million tons of food—which was the equivalent of more than 40 percent of all the fresh

fruits and vegetables consumed in the United States." So here we are, we have enthusiasm, more than need, but if there ever was a time for a morale boost, it's now!

Luckily spring is here and I know you are likely inspecting your garden, as I am. Imagining with pure pleasure the miracles you will achieve on your plot of land. I see the bulbs peeking out and there are buds everywhere. With the shelter-in-place order in effect since last week, I have found more time to examine my seed packages and arrange them in planting order. I am



reading up on the unusual seeds I picked up at last years seed swap, and I'm anxious to get them in the ground. If you are looking for some great ideas on early planting, read Cindy's President's message in the March issue. I took some pointers and have already put that information to good use.

I want to thank Past Presidents Andy Plasz, Jerry Cleland and Cindy Julian for chairing the January, February and March meetings while I was indisposed, great teamwork!

REMINDER: we are still looking to fill a Board seat and invite you to contact us if you would like to join the Board.

In closing, I realize this period is difficult, but I think it's important to make sure everyone is safe before we reconvene. I promise we will work on some virtual activities and get back in touch. I am looking forward to when we meet again, until then, stay well.

This Month's Club Activity:

April 13 -- Insects of Lake County Ryerson Woods/LCFP CANCELLED

Future Programs for 2020

May 9 -- Annual Plant Sale CANCELLED

May 11 -- It's Not a Bug, It's Abiotic CANCELLED

June 8 -- Mini Plant Show CANCELLED

July 17 Annual Picnic 5pm

August- No Meeting

Sept 14 (Veggie Tasting)

The New Fall Cleanup by Kim Ellson

As devoted gardeners, we have traditionally always prepared our gardens for winter by diligently cutting down and removing all dead growth. So what has changed? We now know so much more than we did in the past, and in particular how our management of our garden can have dramatic impacts on wildlife. Did you know that some of your favorite butterflies need that dead growth to overwinter and survive another season? Learn why more and more people are now embracing a new approach to fall cleanups and how you too can make a positive change.

Oct 12- Permaculture Gardening- by Alicia Dodd

Alicia is the creator and manager of the Fremont Township Community Garden and will be sharing a Permaculture approach to managing our environment that conserves resources, encourages biodiversity, and brings our surroundings to life! Join us as she shares lessons learned with integrated pest management, weed control, and plant selection for successful chemical-free gardening. She's happy to address questions on organic gardening, native plants, drip irrigation, building with natural materials, green roofs, fermenting, erosion control, rain gardens, and building community.

Nov 9 Pie Social & Seed-Swap

Dec 6 - Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

**Your New Bloom
- Rekha Deodhar**

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, we are not going to have our meetings. But “show must go on”! Soon we will have new blooms in our gardens. Please take photos of the new blooms in your gardens and send them to me. I will post them in the next Secateur. We are missing plant competition for next 3 months, but here is your chance to show the best in your yard to fellow gardeners.
Deodhar91@gmail.com



**Rose Garden Update
-Andy Plasz**

I have contacted Christian Bedard the hybridizer at Weeks roses and he has postponed the shipping date to the week of April 6 at my request. We will go from there and see what happens. We will prune one person or couple at a time in our garage driveway. Takeout and return to do pruning at home will also be available. Individual one at time pruning the Cook park garden will also be available.



The Village has emailed me that The Gardeners are non-paid contractors and that all contractors are allowed to work in the park.

Everything in our lives is fluid and changing. Stay flexible, think smart and stay safe. With all the daily activity there are constant changes to this fluid situation; stay tuned, more will definitely follow. Enjoy and study your home gardens, something new pops up each day!

**2021 Photo Contest Theme
-Jerry Cleland**

For the upcoming year 2021, the photo contest theme is **Hot /Cold**, which can be interpreted in any number of ways by our photographers. It might refer to weather, to spiciness, to color choices, or to other possible meanings. While our entrants have said they enjoy the challenge of creating photos following the theme, it is not required so if you have other great photos make sure you enter them.

For the January 2021 contest, each member may enter up to 5 photos. As in the past, the photos will be printed and displayed in a 4 x 6 inch format. More



complete instructions will be distributed later this year during our monthly meetings and in the Secateur.

2020 Monthly Plant Competition

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.

March 2020 Monthly Competition

| Name | Entry | Points |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Best of the Show | | |
| Laurie Austin | Orchid | 10 |
| Jerry Cleland | Dendrobium Orchid | 10 |
| | Christmas Chimes | |
| | Mild Yurni | |
| First Place | | |
| Jerry Cleland | Love Memory Fizz Orchid | 5 |
| Jerry Cleland | Love Memory Fizz | 5 |
| Corrie Glass | Snowdrops | 5 |
| Karen O’Hayer | Succulent Garden | 5 |
| Janice Paulson | Snowdrops | 5 |
| Second Place | | |
| Jon Adams | Snowdrops | 3 |

2020 Year to Date Results

| Name | Points |
|----------------|--------|
| Jerry Cleland | 35 |
| John Adams | 23 |
| Karen O’Hayer | 15 |
| Janice Paulson | 13 |
| Lauri Austin | 10 |
| Susan Plasz | 10 |
| Corrie Glass | 5 |
| Cathy Nardo | 5 |

Poem by Janice Paulson

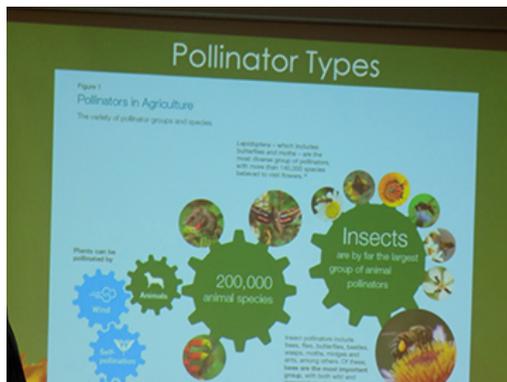
The presence of absence haunts stillness
Empty chairs once were occupied with the vibrancy of life
Silent rooms once roared with laughter and conversation
Memories are melting like snowflakes in the warmth of my empty hand
Faded remembrances crowd my dreams
And waking makes the yearning acutely felt
The dreams of sleep and the haze of daydreams are welcomed solace
The absence of presence still haunts

Plants Sharing

Unfortunately we don't have Plant Sale this year. But Nature is not going to stop coming back in the spring. You can share your plants with the club members as we do for the plant sale. If you are willing to do that please enter that in the following spread sheet as every year.

<https://bit.ly/3dRsFCm>

March Meeting Photos



Plant Competition



Photos from the Contest

