

THE SECATEUR



Gardeners of Central Lake County

Where grown-ups get to play with the dirt



Happy Holidays

Volume 56, Issue 147 December 2020

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

Greetings Fellow Gardeners,

Here we are in the last month of 2020, I am sure you too are looking forward to 2021 and the hope it brings for so many reasons.

Our virtual programs, tours and article links will continue through the first half of the year, of course we will monitor Illinois state COVID-19 restrictions and relaxations.

I include these links for easy reference:

[Restrictions and reopening](#)

[Vaccine information](#)

[Illinois Department of Public Health COVID-19](#)

[Information](#)

For general questions about COVID-19, call the Illinois hotline at 1-800-889-3931.

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Past Presidents: Susan Plasz, Andy Plasz, Tony Kirch, Jerry Cleland, Andy Kimmel, Karen O'Hare

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.



CALENDARS – ONLY \$10! Get yours now – send your order in an email to GCLC1959@gmail.com by 12/15/2020

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Hibernation!
I wanted to share this website, [Gardening Without Skills](#) accompanied by this delightful version of this traditional poem:

'Twas the Night Before Christmas - A Gardener's
Version by Kate

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the yard,
Not a veggie was growing, not even the chard.
The trellis was strung by the green beans with care,
In hopes that an edible plant would grow there.

The chickens were nestled all snug in their nests,
While visions of pasta worms danced in their heads.
Farmer B with his light beer and I with my wine,
Had just settled down for some nice TV time.

When out in the garden I heard a big noise,
I leapt from the couch and tripped over some toys.
Away to the screen door in four seconds flat,
Flipped open the gate latch and tripped on the cat.

When what to my bloodshot eyes did appear,
But a master gardener with a new pair of shears.
He was pushing a wheelbarrow so heavy with plants,
That I started to do my best happy dance.

He was dressed all in green from his hat to his boots,
And his pants were all muddy with dirt from plant shoots.
A bundle of seedlings he had flung on his back,
And he looked for a place to begin the attack.

His trowel how it twinkled - his hoe was so shiny!
His spade was brand new - his gloves were so tiny!
His droll little mouth was drawn up in a smile,
As he worked with his tools in a whimsical style.

He spoke not a word as he started to plant,
And took out some seedlings that he could transplant.
He filled all the raised beds with veggies galore,
As I stood there watching from my screened back door.

And laying his shovel right next to his hoe,
I knew it was time for the gardener to go.
But I heard him exclaim as rolled out of sight,
Happy Gardening to all and to all a good night.

May you stay safe and warm during this holiday season.

Val



Special Thanks to Delores O'Connell - by Val Munchez-Van der Wagt

I want to personally thank and recognize our departing Vice President and Program Director, Delores O'Connell for her many years of service. Board service is a volunteer role and we exist because of the contributions of members like Delores.

Delores is stepping down from the Board and we are grateful for her work.



Delores had a keen sense of relevancy for topics for gardeners, novice and pros, alike. She was amazing at identifying presenters who could bring substantive and

timely information to our members, her connections were numerous and diverse. I joined the Gardeners of Central Lake County specifically because of the alluring topics that were advertised in the local paper. I didn't know anyone when I first attended, and now I am part of this large gardening family. I have grown tremendously in my knowledge and been exposed to gardening-centric topics I had not considered.

Delores, in addition to all of the wonderful kudos that you have already received from other Board Members, I am sure that the members feel the same. Thank you for providing your replacement, Karen Ohayer, with your trove of data, so she can carry on the good work for the club. Thank you from all of us.

2021 Photo Contest Hurry up and submit your photos by Dec. 15 -Jerry Cleland

It is again time to begin reviewing your garden-related photos to determine which 4 photos are your best to enter into the club contest. Each January we hold our photo contest and vote on the great photos taken by our members. Every year we have a theme to help provide inspiration for our members; this year the theme is Hot or Cold. So while the theme is open to interpretation, there is no requirement that any photos conform to the theme. If you have great photos you wish to enter which do not have any thematic elements in them that is fine too.

In brief, here are the directions. Please contact Jerry if you have any questions.

GCLC Photography Contest – We expect this year’s photo contest to be the best ever, with even more of our members submitting garden-related photos to be entered for our upcoming photo contest.



Here is the process:

Choose your favorite 4 photos

Attach and send in jpg format to [Jerry Cleland](#)

1. This year’s theme is **Hot or Cold**, but it is not a requirement for any photo
2. Unless you specify otherwise, he will edit photos as appropriate
3. If you do not know how to send attachments contact Jerry
4. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT IS DECEMBER 15, 2020**

All photos will be posted in an online format for member voting; details to be announced

A link to the voting site will be sent to club members

All photos will be anonymously judged in January 2021

Votes will be tabulated and the 20 photos with the most votes will be announced

All of the club photos will be sent to our own Calendar Committee who will select photos for the 2022 Gardeners of Central Lake County calendar

If you are interested in more information about the contest, an article was published in the March 2017 Secateur and is posted in the club website – [Photo Contest](#)

The Solutions to the Bee Crisis From Beekeeperman.com -Summary by Laura Wilson

Like the pandemic, climate change and the world economy, the bee crisis seems like one more overwhelming problem.

However, scientists, agencies, and government offer hope – if we contact them and remind them to do their jobs.

We can act also. One local solution is to plant native plant gardens and unused bits of land in town. That step provides habitat for birds and insects. Use no pesticides.

The first steps include:

1. Ban all bee harming pesticides
2. Promote, encourage, and support ecologically sound and sustainable agricultural farming
3. Teach and train beekeepers how to keep bees strong and healthy naturally
4. Refuse to buy honey from anyone (organic or not!) who robs too much honey (the bee’s food) and replaces it with sugar or corn syrup (which gets into the honey you buy).

1) Ban Bee harming pesticides

All bee harming pesticides must be banned immediately. But how is it possible to grow food without killing the bugs that eat them? Keep reading and you will see...

2) Sustainable and Organic farming is the only answer Sustainable, ecological, bio-diverse farming is already being practiced widespread. Pesticides are completely unnecessary. When the soil is healthy, the plant is healthy, and the plant is bug resistant. Bugs are God’s way of eating up sick or dying plants.

Farming with concern for the health of the soil means healthier soil, which produces healthier plants, which means healthier food for us and healthier bees.

Choose local. Talk to the people that grow your food. Visit farmers markets.

Start a garden yourself! Cultivate all bees with proper prairie growth.

3) Spread the Word that Old School beekeeping is out

Become a beekeeper yourself! You’d be surprised, but most city ordinances don’t have restrictions concerning keeping bees in your backyard. As long as you provide flowers and water for your bees they won’t be a nuisance to your neighbors. Be sure and point the hive entrance away from walkways, and if you plant a hedge or put a wall in front of the hive entrance they will be forced to fly up and travel higher above the heads of people.

4) Choose the right honey with your money

You vote for the health of the bees with your pocketbook. Buy honey locally and ask your beekeeper

if he medicates his bees. Ask him if he feeds his bees corn syrup or sugar water.

Refuse to buy honey from any beekeeper who doesn't respect those 2 things and only buy raw honey. If you are buying cooked honey you have lost all of the medicinal benefit. If you find a beekeeper who respects the bees enough to allow them to eat their own food (honey) and also finds no need to medicate them then likely he will also keep the honey raw.

Interested in Becoming a Beekeeper?

Join the Movement!

Go to Beekeeperman.com

Change of Command -by Janice Paulson

Winter terminates its reign and reluctantly yields its mighty grasp to the forceful drive of persuasive spring...

A phenomenal burst of new life appears on yesterday's forgotten bleak and barren trees while the gradual decay of blanket ice denudes nature's maritime mirrors.

Spring yields its miraculous accomplishments to accepting summer...

Infant buds evolve into sun-absorbing leaves, while brisk blustery semi-brumal days become sweltering stagnant periods.

Summer surrenders its triumphant incumbency to incoming autumn...

Trees that had reflected the hue of grass now unfurl fire-pigmented banners while impulsively active days become serene meditative hours.

Autumn is depleted of its vitality by frigid winter...

The last remaining token of life has become obscure by the brigand's grasp, yet, the remnant vital spark continues to glow hope through the reign of death.

December Photos

