

THE SECATEUR



Gardeners of Central Lake County
Where grown-ups get to play with the dirt

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Volume 56, Issue 142 June 2020

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

Greetings to my fellow Gardeners,
As we near summer I hope you are invigorated by the opening of the garden season. There is a lot of



enthusiasm to take up gardening and to expand gardens. Even the Community Garden has more plots under contract than last year. Karen O'Hayer and I worked with Chris last Friday to

finish plotting the spaces. There are still a few available.

In my garden, I have planted most of the veggies, zucchini, squash, bok choy, broccoli, red and white cabbage, tomatoes, hot peppers and three kinds of Bell peppers. In addition, I have a new treat - kohlrabi, which I mistook for cabbage – so now I have four of these but have no idea how to cook them once harvested (feel free to send recommendations!). My direct sow string beans are already showing tertiary leaves.



This year I successfully started a number of plants from seed using the milk jug method: beets, cucumbers and cilantro. I transplanted those last weekend and they are doing fine. I also planted mesclun (Lettuce mix) in a milk jug that I will keep on my back deck – every other day I have a full bowl of fresh green leaves. I was so happy with the result I have started 2

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'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.

[13 good reasons to join Garden Club](#)

additional containers. Now I have a nice mix of arugula, spicy scallions and lettuce just steps away. In the perennial and bulb area, our Bearded Irises are stunning, the Alliums are standing tall and in full bloom, Hostas are spreading but my Bleeding Hearts have nowhere near the usual cascade of blooms – I think they were stunted by the last cold snap in May.

As you will read later, the Rose Garden is open – a big thanks to everyone who lent a hand, shoulder and knee to get the job done.

I hope you are interacting with our website – we have so much content and resources available.

As we near mid-year of Covid-19, we are still monitoring state requirements and have no further changes to the schedule at this time. We are currently in Phase 3 and look forward to Phase 4. Look for my Board Meeting update email for more specifics.

Until then, enjoy your gardens!
Happy seeding!

This Month's Club Activity:

June 8 – Mini Plant Show CANCELLED

Future Programs for 2020

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 Blooms

- 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

The time period covered in the last newsletter was through April 19. Collectively volunteers put in 98 hours in this socially distanced effort.



Since then, Andy Kimmel, Chuck and Laurie Austin, Jan Smith and I

have completely fine pruned both the north and south sections. I declared the garden planted and pruned on April 27. I applied Preen to the south half of the garden on 4/28. Then the rains came. Libertyville had 3.41 inches over those 3 days according to Tom Skilling. We had 2.875 inches at the Plasz garden during that time.



During the first week of May, Laurie and Chuck Austin, Val Munchez, Jan Smith, Andy Kimmel and I fine pruned the garden again as we had significant dieback from the garden wintering over and also hosed down some soil mounds. On May 12, I hosed down the remaining soil mounds. Then on May 15, Chuck and Laurie Austin, Karen O'Hayer, Terry Webb and I removed all the bags, blew debris from the garden and applied 150 pounds

of high nitrogen -low phosphorus fertilizer. Then the rain came. During May, we had over 9 inches of rain in Libertyville, including over 6 inches in the last two weeks. We did not have to water. We got the fertilizer down and scratched in at the right time. The growth has been excellent after a very cold spring start.

June is upon us. In the next couple of weeks, we will weed, prune out any further die back and apply 150 pounds of 12-12-12 fertilizer to the garden. So far the Garden Club has put in 179 volunteer hours in the rose garden, using social distancing, wearing masks and overcoming lousy weather. A big salute to all the volunteers. The Mayor and Parks Department appreciate all the volunteer effort from the club and others.



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.

Four Seasons Gardening Webinar Series

- by University of Illinois Extension

This is one of the most popular horticulture programs offered by the Illinois Extension Horticulture Team.

For more info:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-series>

Volunteer Opportunity

- by Karen O'Hare

Lately I find myself with less to do than under normal circumstances. These dark times bring out the desire to

use some of this free time productively, to try to make a positive contribution. I can't sew face masks (trust me: I almost flunked Home Economics), so I've come up with another idea.

Being a huge nature and science nerd, I've identified a citizen-science project I can participate in from my own backyard, while practicing optimal social distancing. It's called Bumble Bee Watch, which is a collaborative effort to track and conserve North American bumble bees. All you need to participate is a camera or smart phone. You take photos of bumble bees in your yard, make an effort to identify them, and submit the photos and tentative IDs to the Bumble Bee Watch website. Your IDs will be verified by bee experts, and the information will be added to the database. In case you might be interested in participating, here is a link to the website.

<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org>

If you'd like to know more about bumble bees in general, here's a link to some good information about these awesome native pollinators.

<https://www.xerces.org/bumblebees>

Sharon Yieslas Plants

<http://yieslasplants.com/>

Please visit this informative and educational website by Sharon Yieslas. Sharon is a horticulturist and working with plants for many years. On her website, she has many photos and even flashcards for the plants along with good information of them.

2020 Monthly Plant Competition

As we don't have our monthly meeting, we will not have plant competition. But keep gardening.

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

NEOCRONOTICS (NEONICS)- BEES AND MY GARDEN

Assembled by Laura Wilson

While many gardeners have been worried about the danger of pesticides to honeybees and bumblebees, recent research indicates the direct danger to human beings.

Laboratory tests with cell cultures and rodents led the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to [categorize two neonics](#)—imidacloprid and acetamiprid—as possibly impairing the developing human nervous system.

There is disturbing evidence that these neonics are making their way into our food and water supply. A study by the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) found that neonics are widespread contaminants of surface and groundwater that could be a source of drinking water.

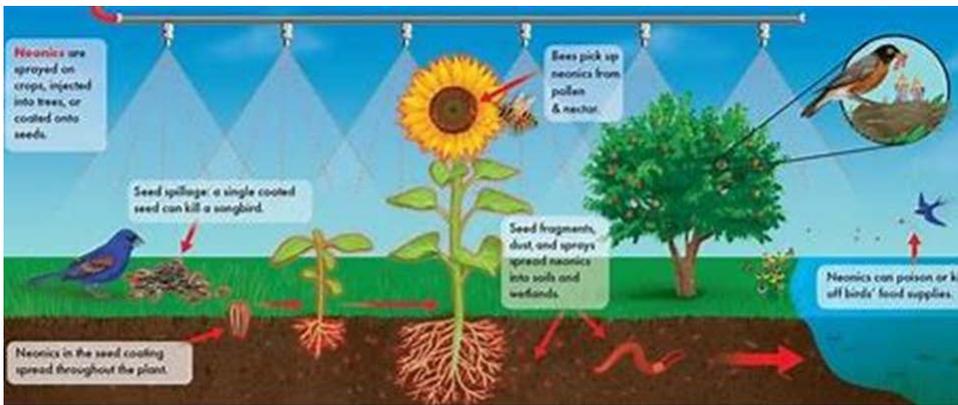
Yes, we are aware of the decline in all bees, but especially honey and bumblebees so essential to pollination of the plants which make up our food supply and that of the world.

So what to do? This is a short newsletter. Read these articles and associated materials. Even more alarming, a [study by NIH-funded researchers](#) from UNC Chapel Hill and UC Davis reported that frequent exposure (self-reported by parents) to imidacloprid applied as flea and tick treatments for pets (Advantage by Bayer) during pregnancy was associated with Autism spectrum disorder (OR 2.0, 95% CI 1.0-3.9) in prenatally-exposed children ([Keil et al 2014](#)).

So, bees are essential for food, no arguments. But what about our own cognitive abilities?.

What can I do? When you have come to conclusions and have questions, contact The Department of Agriculture, The Environmental Defense Fund or Jennifer Sass, at nrdcaction@nrdc.org among numerous other websites and production companies. Studies show that your letters are the most read form, by staffers, beyond email or phone calls.

“What is your stand on sale of neonics? **What dangers do they present?**”



<https://i.pinimg.com/736x/ce/91/0e/ce910eb3df401d7b38faadb3ce039828--infographics-charts.jpg>

Other resources mentioned above

<https://www.honeycolony.com/article/shedding-light-3-big-lies-systemic-pesticides/>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/neonicotinoid-pesticides-slowly-killing-bees>

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/jennifer-sass/neonicotinoid-pesticides-bad-bees-and-may-be-bad-people-too>

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/jennifer-sass/neonicotinoid-pesticides-bad-bees-and-may-be-bad-people-too>

Mother Earth News. Shelley Stonebrook. Updated from 2014. 2020

Xerces Society Webinars

The Xerces Society hosts webinars and participates in events organized by other organizations. This page lists all the upcoming topics and dates.

<https://xerces.org/events/webinars>

I cried Today

- Poem by Janice Paulson

I cried today
Everything was something else first
Before it became what it is

I cried today
No matter which way the wind blows
The earth still turns

I cried today
This book of life has many stories
However this chapter haunts me

I won't cry tomorrow
... Maybe



May-June Blooms Photos





