

# THE SECATEUR



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

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

Greetings to my fellow Gardeners,  
As I write to you today, I watch the bees buzzing outside my window and the fat Robins hopping across the lawn looking for worms. When I was a kid there was a spring poem of sorts:  
Spring has sprung, the grass has riz,  
I wonder where the flowers iz.  
Actually I think it came from MAD magazine.

That said, I am happily breathing in the sweet smell of spring and reflecting on its resilience – gives me comfort and inspiration - the growing season is afoot! I inspected my yard today and checked my perennials, they are doing well but my milk jugs are a little slow this year. I know we are all anxious to get in the garden and safely plant our seeds and crop (seems to be a familiar theme). While the safe at home order remains in effect, there are a few additional businesses that have been deemed essential for social distance shopping, such as nurseries, green houses and garden centers. On May 1st, [The Prairie Crossing Farm](#) opened it's website for on-line orders and car-trunk pickups. The [Libertyville Community Gardens](#) is also open for plot subscriptions; Apply early, as there is renewed interest in gardening according to this [Chicago Tribune article](#). While we won't be meeting in person, let's stay connected on-line and through email. Thank you to all who have contributed to the on-line articles and resources.  
Happy seeding!

**[Indoor Gardening!](#)** Good Information

**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: 25<sup>th</sup> 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](#)**

## This Month's Club Activity:

May 9 — Annual Plant Sale **CANCELLED**

May 11 — It's Not a Bug, It's Abiotic **CANCELLED**

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## Future Programs for 2020

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 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](mailto:Deodhar91@gmail.com)

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## Rose Garden Update

-**Andy Plasz**

Due to the virus we have adopted new continually changing plans, which must be flexible to adjust to new and variable events.



Items Completed so far:

- Fences removed from rose garden.
- Perennials dug out and replanted elsewhere by Village.
- Postponed delivery of roses to the week of April 6
- Buhman Group has removed all leaves and debris from the garden
- Andy Kimmel and I cut down the dead wood at the garden. Andy K. did the north section and I worked on the south section. We are only 2/3 done.
- The debris and cuttings piled in the usual spot on the south end removed by the village
- Roses delivered Monday April 13
- Worm castings arrived Tuesday April 14
- Andy soaked all bushes in a bleach solution to kill any fungus or bugs that may be on the bushes
- Wednesday April 15, I pruned in the Plasz garage
- Chuck and Laurie Austin, Andy Kimmel and Jan Smith (twice) came to pick up roses, take them home, prune them and return them to garage.

Planting at Cook Park:

- Thursday April 16 Stakes placed for first plantings
- Friday April 17 Planted 18 Home Runs at Cook Park.
- Saturday April 16  
7:30AM planted 12 More Home Runs, Mayor Wepler came by and thanked the Garden Club for their effort in these trying times  
10AM Karen O'Hayer raked out all the pruning debris from garden  
11AM Two masked teams, the Austins, Terry Webb and I plant 40 bushes. Person 1 digs holes, Person 2 after several holes dug, plants a rose, puts 1/2 of dirt back in, bags the rose, adds 3 banana peels. Person 1 Fills holes with remaining excavated dirt
- Sunday April 19, The Austins, Terry Webb and Val Van der Wagt plant the last 26 roses. We watered them, removed any remaining debris from the garden, and put it all in the giant rose box in which the 96 rose bushes came in.

- Monday April 20, the Village took away the box of clippings.

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## 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.

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## 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>

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## 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>

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## 18 years in a woodland garden, or what happens if you never rake

### -by Arlene Doran

This Spring I realized I don't fret about not raking anymore. I have a large woodland garden that is host to a wide variety of perennials, native and not native alike. I first read about no cleanup gardens many years ago and I decided that would be the only way I could handle a garden of this size.

I was so anxious every Spring, so sure that this was the year the wildflowers would be smothered, the barrenwort would not come back, the monarda would not impress, well the list of worries was as long as my plant list.

Now I have been here long enough and have enjoyed the Spring wildflowers, and the barrenwort and the monarda long enough to know that they will be fine. Raking is not always necessary, or even the best practice. I have already seen lots of bees this spring, including two-spotted bees, aka big fuzzy bumblebees, and I know that I did not disturb the Black Swallowtail caterpillars that overwintered as cocoons on the bronze fennel. Another benefit is the decaying leaves and plants act as a substitute for compost. I have never used fertilizer in the woodland area.

The messiness of no raking is not for everyone, and even I rake the areas close to the house, sometimes. However maybe next fall you have a little area that could become a woodland garden too.

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## 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

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### 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>

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### Poem by Janice Paulson

2019

Carried by the wind or by the soft touch of an embrace  
The intimate stranger enters our realm  
The silent invader steals away  
And destroys the fabric of our being  
Invisible tendrils entangle and strangle  
The timeframe of our lives in limbo

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### Poem by Karen O'Hayer

First very warm day of the year,  
I set out to do some gardening.  
Instead I sit and listen to the birds,  
Feel the wind, absorb the sun's rays.  
I dip in and out of a book, check  
Social media, but nothing is as  
Engaging as watching the clouds  
drift by overhead, a pair of house finches  
puttering in the yard.

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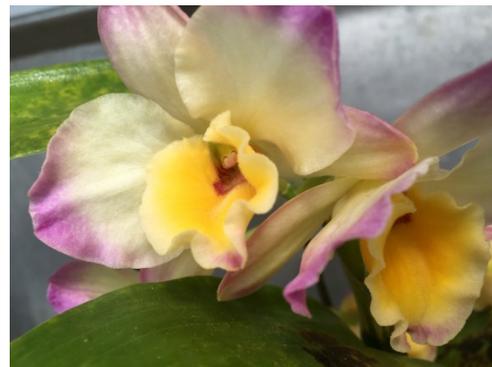
### Liberty Prairie is moving Annual Plant Sale online!

Watch video: <https://bit.ly/2KEMujf>

Organic Plant Sale goes online

Get all important information at the end of this newsletter.

## New Blooms Photos



# Liberty Prairie Foundation

## Organic Plant Sale Moving Online!

Each year, we sell a wide variety of certified organic plants to local gardeners as a fundraiser for our Prairie Farm Corps high school job training program. Due to the “stay at home” order from Governor Pritzker, however, we are not holding the Organic Plant Sale as a large outdoor event this season. Instead, we have moved it online. You will be able to order and pay online. You’ll then be able to pick up your plants from the farm in a way that honors social distancing.

So same great plants. Same quantities. New online system!

We believe there’s never been a better time to start a garden. Amidst empty shelves at grocery stores and concerns about disruptions of global trade, developing a local food movement has never been more important. The first step to having local food is to plant a garden.

Whether you’ve been gardening your whole life or you are just getting started now, we encourage you to purchase your plants from the Online Organic Plant Sale this year.

The plants are of the highest quality, and you’ll be helping diverse Lake County youth learn about sustainable farming and farm-to-table cooking, all the while practicing personal and professional skills that they can take with them into any field. Last year, our sale was able to raise \$20,000 for the Prairie Farm Corps program. With your help, we can do that again!

Here’s how this year’s sale will work:

Step One: Put together your garden order list. (optional)

Use our “sneak-peek” shopping list to see what’s available and plan your garden. This valuable tool can make shopping easier once you’re able to purchase from our website.

Step Two: Order Online

As of May 1st, the online store will be open and ready to accept orders. (We can’t make ordering available earlier because greenhouse production can be variable, and we want the inventory amounts listed to be as accurate as possible.)

The website will allow you to:

- Choose your plants
- Pay online
- Schedule a pick-up time and date.

Step Three: Pick up your Order from the Farm.

Once you’ve ordered online, you’ll choose a date and time slot to come to the Prairie Crossing Farm for pick-up. The Prairie Crossing Farm is located at 32400 Harris Road, Grayslake, IL 60030. Plants will be available for pick-up on and after Saturday, May 16th.

Follow the signs at the Prairie Crossing Farm to our Online Plant Sale Order Pick Up area, While still in your car, give us your name, pop your trunk, and we’ll place your pre-arranged order into your car.

If you are unable to leave your house, please email our Plant Sale Team at [kim@libertyprairie.org](mailto:kim@libertyprairie.org) for delivery information. There will be a \$10 delivery charge, and we can only deliver 20 miles from the farm.

We'll also be releasing weekly videos on our social media platforms to help people learn to garden. Keep on the look-out for topics like: "how to grow onions from seedlings" or "how to create a healthy container garden." We're excited to grow along with you and will be trying out many new methods this year.

As we release our sneak-peak shopping list, our online store, and informative videos on gardening, please share widely! There is plenty of interest in gardening and growing food, but we could really use your help in getting the word out.

So order your plants online with us! You'll be giving your family healthy food and time together. You'll also be equipping local high school students with important skills and transformative experiences.

Thanks for your support!

Please send any questions and ideas to [kim@libertyprairie.org](mailto:kim@libertyprairie.org) and our Plant Sale team.

We work across the region to incubate and mentor beginning sustainable local food farmers, provide fresh food access in underserved communities, educate and inspire youth, connect farmers with land, and shape policy that affects our local food system. Please consider supporting our programs. Your donations help support these important programs that improve our food system, educate, and feed our hungry neighbors. Thank you!

Liberty Prairie Foundation

32400 North Harris Rd.

Grayslake, Illinois 60030

## Your Lawn is not for The Masters' Tournament

From National Wildlife Magazine (April-May 2020)

Submitted by Laura Wilson

"Wildflowers Save Bees." I've been looking around for this bumper sticker but so far, no luck. Perhaps that can be the LOGO for our next t-shirt.

You don't have to train as a beekeeper or buy expensive garden flowers to attract bees. According to Jay Keck of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, "Asters, goldenrods, boneset, and coneflowers will cover a garden or garden border on their own. These plants are covered with pollinators, including monarch butterflies, by fall." Illinois has these flowers, too, coneflowers, varieties of sunflowers, and milkweed and yes, dandelions. Spice bushes and lilacs attract bees.

But where to put a prairie plot? Most folks in Lake County who have a house, have a lawn – and proud of it. But what about the lack of bee habitat everywhere? What about the vast impact of pest and herbicides used on lawns? According to the US Environmental Protection reports, "Lawn and garden owners use sprays adding up to 90 pounds of insecticides and herbicides a year. Lawn mowers emit 27 million tons of air pollutants annually. And Americans squander 9 billion gallons of water outdoors each day."

What alternatives do house owners have? Are you willing to change? You can replace your lawn or add varieties, native and non-native, wildlife-welcoming plants, as cited in *National Wildlife Magazine*, April-May 2020.



Buffalograss: drought resistant, seeded in early spring, will fill in by autumn

Scott Vogt, Dykes Arboretum, K S

Sedge grass

Grows best in wet areas, Pennsylvania Sedge is best; creeping habit but slow to take off; 6 inches high; can stand light foot traffic; pest resistant; use a plug to plant it. - Neal Diboll, Prairie Nursery, Westfield, WI

Mosses

Likes lots of shade; spread fast from 6 x 6 ft moss mats; promote erosion control and water -filtration; provide habitat for beneficial insects; come back after winter

General Reasons to Replace Grass:

- THE BEES, wild and domestic, benefit indirectly from all options to turf, especially because your property becomes completely organic. You can always keep or start non-native flowers, trees and bushes like willow and lilacs and keep favorites like Bleeding Hearts, honeysuckle, Black-eyed Susan, Spice Bush which attract bees. Or add a lovely hummingbird feeder and birdbath. Bees like both.
- You will reduce toxins in the environment
- Conserve water
- Native plants make good choices for shady, unsightly, or wet portions of property
- You will reduce carbon from the exhaust of your mower and reduce gas money in mowing and
- As the politicians say, parents have "Time with my family."
- No mowing gives you time for other more interesting activities.

- *National Wildlife Magazine*, April – May 2020- Doreen Cubie



## Down on my knees

“Professional gardeners don’t kneel.” That’s what my new assistant said. He was always just a tad early for work. He was always cleanly dressed with a near-military crispness. He worked smart, had good ideas, and knew plant names.

He was a professional gardener, and I was lucky to have him. By his standards, however, I am not a professional gardener. I invariably show up late, sometimes in dirty clothes from the day before. I am clumsy and often work harder than necessary, repeatedly hurting myself. I make lots of mistakes, and these days I am forgetting more plant names than I can remember.

I also kneel. I kneel a lot.

My yoga instructor once commented that I had long legs and a short torso, making it hard for me to touch my toes. I am a natural for squatting, and kneeling, I thought. But that is not the only reason I kneel. I like to be on the ground. I like to be right down in the dirt among the plants, my knees aching from kneeling. It makes this professional as happy as any amateur.

The moniker “amateur” can have a pejorative feel, implying a dabbler or dilettante. It almost always designates someone involved in an activity with no expertise, who thus realizes no financial gain. But it comes to us from the French and means simply “lover.”

A few years ago a woman approached me about taking on her garden, a large estate professionally designed and professionally maintained. As we toured her garden, she repeatedly said, “Nobody loves this garden.”

I had to agree. Certainly everything was clipped, dead-headed and weeded into a benign tidiness. Most of us would have said it was a fine garden, impressive in scale and design. But it had no heart.

So I threw some heart into her garden. It’s a little more disheveled now. Every leaf is not whisked away on the jet stream of a backpack blower the minute it hits the ground. There are even clutches of deliberate “weeds,” as well as moss on the paving. It costs her a lot of money to get that look, so in that sense it is a professional job. But I take an amateur’s approach.

And it works. My client is now happy with her garden. I am not trying to deride professionalism, or professional gardeners for that matter. I’ve learned a lot about



what to do, and what not to do, from the professionals. I admire the disciplined approach my colleagues take, the intelligent choices they make, and the informed decision-making processes they use.

But I admire amateurs more. I’ve learned so much from the impulsive plant choices and slap-dash designs of my friends. I can even say I’ve learned to love negligence.

I had a roommate once who, after I diligently cleaned the kitchen, took out a glass, filled it with water, drank the water, then put the glass in the spotless sink.

“Now it looks like someone is living here,” he said. It took some time for my aggravation to abate. But I got his point.

I still think cleanliness is a virtue and timeliness a common courtesy. I still believe in discipline in design and maintenance. Yet the times I feel the most grateful that I am a gardener are not when I am orchestrating a massive project, or in a frenzy of tidying before a client’s party, but when I am on the ground, and on my knees.

—Daniel Mount is a gardener and writer in Carnation, Washington.

Spring Blooms continues

