

# THE SECATEUR



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

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**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

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**Gardeners of Central Lake County's Website:**  
<http://www.gardenersofcentrallakecounty.org/>

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## **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.

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

**Volume 56, Issue 146 November 2020**

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

Hello Gardeners,  
Windy but warm weather as we step into November. Lovely days outside to finish your garden cleaning, planting and trimming. In our garden, we are



harvesting the last of the greens and peppers while planting garlic, tulips and hyacinths for next year. I have heard there was quite a success in okra, tomatoes and peppers this year. Tell us about your successes or preparations and anything you are doing differently for 2021. We'll add it to the website, and of course, we appreciate articles as well for the Secateur. Check out Laura Wilson's article on Bees and Pesticides in this newsletter.

We've had good weather too for the winterizing activity in the Rose Garden, and we appreciate everyone who has participated, as Andy Plasz always says: many hands make small work!



It's comforting to know that our efforts have contributed again to the town center showcase. In fact, Andy received an acknowledgment

from the Mayor of Libertyville:

*"Thank you to you and all of the volunteers for the wonderful job you did on the rose garden this year. With the COVID pandemic the rose garden was a bright spot in a bleak summer. I enjoyed walking through the park and seeing the roses. I appreciate everything that*

*you and all of your volunteers do to make the Village a great place to live. Thanks again."*

– Terry Wepler, Mayor of the Village of Libertyville  
11/02/20.

What an honor to participate in creating nature that has a positive Zen impact on our fellow Illinoisans.

2020 has been the catalyst for reinventing ourselves, we've done that this year, and will continue into 2021.

As you know, the Board meets monthly, via Zoom, doing the business of the club and we've gotten pretty comfortable with that. We had our first Zoom membership meeting in October, given by Jerry Cleland, on Orchids. We



had great feedback and expect to do more of these. Technology helps us stay connected and we can easily view and absorb the presentations that we use to enjoy in person. The content, personality and education are all there, even though we miss the social and personal contact. If you haven't downloaded Zoom yet, look into it and join us for future presentations. We'll let you know in advance when they are scheduled and who will present, via email.

We are pleased that we have been able to connect in outdoor activities and zoom. Look for more to come, as always, we love hearing your thoughts and adding suggested sites, webinars and activities to the website – contact Rekha Deodhar.

This month Ryerson Woods has an outdoor artistic display by over 70 artists. It goes through late December 2020, at Heller Nature Center in Highland Park, trails open from 7:30 am to dusk every day. An interesting way to enjoy art and nature. Also coming up through Audubon Washington, register for the Sagelands Webinar, Monday, November 16, 2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM PT

In the next week or so, look for the announcement and order form for the 2021 calendar. You will receive



instructions on how to order, where to send your payment and choice on pickup or drop off. We're excited that we can continue this tradition that we look forward to each year.

Along with the Seed Swap, a tradition we will miss this year, is the Pie Social, but if you are baking a pie,

please send in a picture of the pie with the recipe or a description – we can dream can't we?

Eureka! We have filled all the board positions – thank you to Jan Smith for stepping up and joining the board as Secretary/Scribe, Jan van der Wagt as Treasurer and Karen Ohayer as Program Director.

As we get ready to hibernate – continue to send in pictures too, we love watching the slide shows!

I wish you all a wonderful November and Thanksgiving Holiday.

Val

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### **This Month's Club Activity:**

**Nov 9 Pie Social & Seed-Swap Cancelled**

**Dec 6 - Annual Meeting and Holiday Party Cancelled**

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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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### **Stop Eating Pesticides**

**– Consumer reports.org/pesticideratings1020**

**Catharine Roberts, October 2020**

**Summary by Laura Wilson**

Our beloved pollinators, honeybees, still need help, and so do the plants they support. While we still believe that eating produce contributes to good health, we can't rely on our farmers to avoid dangerous pesticides, killing bees along with other insects. In October's Consumer Reports, the Agricultural Department reports in a five-year study that 450 pesticides were identified on fruits and

vegetables coming through our food markets. CR experts consider that number unsafe. CR recommends “using organic produce when possible to reduce your pesticide exposure, protect the environment, and farmworkers.”

To help consumers select the best organics, CR developed a survey of 35 fruits and vegetables, organic and inorganic, in USA and overseas, canned, fresh, frozen and dried. “Almost all 49 nonorganic products posed little risk. But 20 %, like beans, peaches and potatoes had the worst scores.” See table “Your Guide to the Produce Aisle” CR October pages 28 and 29. It is a helpful guide on your shopping trips.

There is much more research available about cardiovascular disease, (1919 JAMA), children who showed ADHD (Pediatrics) and increased Alzheimer’s Disease (Scientific Reports 2016) with all these diseases linking to pesticide. Other evidence links endocrine disruption with pesticides. (CR Michal Hansen)

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The US FDA and Food and Drug Administration test produce for pesticides, “but the testing shows that the results are below legal levels,” says CR.

You can’t wash away pesticides, but CR recommends washing produce 15-20 minutes “Happy Birthday,” in cold water. No soap or bleach. “Brush – rinse apples and potatoes and other tough skins,” says CR. Let’s also look at the protections we do not have, such as banning Monsanto’s pesticides. See [BeeAction@foe.org](mailto:BeeAction@foe.org) [foe@foe.org](mailto:foe@foe.org) Friends of the Earth  
The bees buzz “Thank You!”

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### **My Pet Caterpillar** **-by Trudy Valente**

This story might be a repeat to others but it is my first that I can remember- from a comment from a coworker about her parsley and caterpillars I looked at my parsley and I too had three caterpillars that looked like monarch but are not. They are from a different family Black Swallowtail.... so now I have a hibernating Swallowtail at the base of my rose bush.... just wanted to share my wonders!



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### **Ripe Tomatoes** **-by Karen O’Hayer**

One of the things I love about gardening is that no matter how many years you have been doing it, there



is still something new to learn. This year I shared a plot at the Libertyville Community Gardens with ace gardener Cindy Julian.

Due to the pandemic, as agreed, we did not see each other at the gardens, but we phoned and emailed each other regularly with updates throughout the season.

At one-point Cindy sent me an article that really changed my opinion on how best to ripen a tomato. I always believed that a delicious home-grown tomato must be ripened on the vine. But I decided to experiment with the technique described in the article,

which involves picking tomatoes when they reach a certain point in the ripening process and completing the ripening indoors. And it worked! There are many advantages to this approach, which are explained in the article. So, if you are intrigued, look at the link below for the full article. It just might change your mind!

[Ripening Tomatoes!](#)

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### Ryerson Art



### Fall Pictures



### Twilight of the Leaves

-by Janice Paulson

poplar, oaks, maples galore  
birches, ash, hemlock and more

colored banners unfurl like discarded flying carpets  
and leaves twitter and flirl in a rhythmic wind song

the leaves become a mosaic carpet view  
of sienna, russet, and copper-colored hue

dabbled rays pierce  
the newly opened canopy and reveal  
the muted sunset swirling on the forest floor!

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