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Volume 56, Issue 144 September 2020

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

Hello Gardeners,
This year seems to be longer than usual, yet oddly enough, it feels as though the summer went by before I really had time to fully appreciate it. Although we did realize a very nice bounty, plenty of tomatoes, squash,



zucchini, peppers, cabbage, beets, string beans, and did I mention zucchini? I hope you are all well and were able to enjoy the weather, garden tasks and new ways to enjoy your garden.

A real bright spot over the summer was a private garden walk. Arlene Doran and Delores O'Connell opened their gardens to our members, a welcome change of pace, and such wondrous gardens! It was heartwarming to see those who attended, even if at a safe distance. It made me feel a little normal. Many pictures were taken, and can be enjoyed on our website.

Coming up in September, we have arranged for a tour of the Fremont Township Community Garden, in lieu of the scheduled presentation. This is a great recovery, a



chance to see everything first-hand. According to the website, it is a multi-functional garden space that provides produce to for food pantry clients and low income seniors and provides opportunities for enjoyment and learning.

A treasured site of community activity where residents are invited to get involved, whether as a garden volunteer, with a community service project, or simply to enjoy and make use of the garden as a get away

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](#)

from the hustle and bustle. Fremont Garden Manager, Alicia Dodd, will be our host and will guide us through this very interesting layout. Masks and social distancing will be the order of the day. Details are in the month's club activity.

We are also excited about our offering for October. Please join us for a Zoom presentation from our expert Jerry Cleland on Orchids-a good opportunity to tune in and virtually gather together again. Look for additional details in this newsletter. Reminders will be sent by e-mail for all our events.

Although we have cancelled the balance of the schedule for 2020 due to continuing Covid-19 concerns, your board is getting busy planning for 2021. We will not be collecting dues for 2021, as we have



had few events or expenses this year. We anticipate starting the 2021 program in May with our Plant Sale, start thinking about what you want to grow for the sale, if you are a contributor, or have thought about it. We are also working on the 2021 calendar and will send you a notice for pre-orders.

We have a few positions that are open or opening up, if you are interested in joining the Board, please send an email with your interest and phone number to GCLC959@gmail.com, to learn more details, or call any of the Board Members. I hope your garden is bountiful and September is slow to leave.

This Month's Club Activity:

Sept. 12 Fremont Community Gardens Tour

Time: 10 am

Place: 22385 W Route 60, Mundelein, IL

Phone: 847-757-6249

Email: fremonttownshipgarden@gmail.com

Masks are must and social distancing must be followed

Future Programs for 2020

Oct 12: Orchids, Orchids, Orchids

Zoom meeting with our Orchid expert Jerry Cleland. Jerry has been growing orchids for over 25 years and he has 75-100 orchids in his greenhouse. For many years he has educated people on Orchids. Jerry will give presentation on how to maintain healthy orchids in the home. You may get to see Orchid repotting if time permits.

Nov 9 Pie Social & Seed-Swap Cancelled

Dec 6 - Annual Meeting and Holiday Party Cancelled

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 August Updates

-Andy Plasz



August was a tough month for the rose garden. It was extremely hot and we had only one good rain, 1.3 inches on August 7. That rain

made the weeds grow. Garden club members spent 71 hours working in the rose garden this month including 2 days deadheading and weeding. This brings the total hours worked in the garden so far this year to over 300. The garden was watered every Sunday in August for 4-6 hours to provide enough moisture for the plants to survive the excessive heat and bloom. We had a spider mite infestation in the middle of August, but those critters are under control now. The Japanese Beetles have come and gone. Cooler weather in September should provide an outstanding fall bloom display.

I stopped by this morning and we still have a lot of bloom and very few weeds! However, I will be looking for some grateful dead headers and fertilizer help in the next couple of weeks.

Community Gardens Update

This year has been a good one at the Libertyville Community Gardens. I took a stroll through the



gardens on the last day of August. Despite the drought, most of the plots are looking good and yielding an abundance of produce. It was quiet except for the call of a pair of killdeers and the rustling sound of the Mylar tape (more on that later).

Tomatoes seem to be the star; almost every plot

features them, and there are probably more than 40 varieties growing in the gardens. Peppers and squash are also very popular. Several gardeners grow sunflowers and quite a few also have zinnias, marigolds and other flowers, adding to the overall beauty and tranquility of the space.

I am sharing a plot this year with Cindy Julian. About a week ago she sent me a text about a



group of Canada geese that were marauding in the gardens. They homed in our plot and were pecking heartily at all the tomatoes within their reach. Egad! After waiting what seemed like eons for ripe tomatoes, we now had a crisis on our hands. Cindy conferred with our neighboring gardener who recommended using iridescent Mylar tape, which blows in the wind and allegedly scares off birds, geese included.

Our plot is now festooned with the Mylar tape, and we are moving our tiny scarecrow around just in case the



geese are paying attention. I guess all gardeners have to share with the local wildlife from time to time. When my daughter Ellen was a little girl, she composed one

of her first songs on this very topic. The lyrics were:

Bunny, bunny bunny,
Come here bunny,
Come and eat our spinach
And our peas.

Well, fingers crossed, I didn't see those geese during my visit to the gardens today. Perhaps they tired of tomatoes and flew off in search of other grub. Wishing you all happy gardening!

2020 garden projects updates

-By Trudy Valentine

Those who were able to attend our garden walk at our house 668 Valley Park Drive, Libertyville last July 2019, we had four areas that we had put signs, "garden construction in progress". So this is an update on those



projects. The area by our generator, next to our house and pond, we pulled out ornamental grasses that were not the Reed Grass "Karl Foerster". This year, we planted three "Karl Foerstes" and two other ornamental grasses and two new Monrovia Evercolor "Everest", Variegated Sedge

Everglo ornamental grasses, which came out in 2020. We also added our favorite ground cover, Woolly Thyme along the edge of the 12 x 12 stones. It gives tiny yellow flowers that look like baby's breath. It also made the maintenance tech happy who takes care of the generator.

To the dry river area we again added rock, which is low maintenance, and no need to feed or water. There were ornamental grasses next to the hot tub. However again we added different ornamental grasses along the right edge of the new smaller

Everglo grasses. On the left, we added vegetables to see how they would do in a different area so one tomato, green peppers and two Brussel sprouts that have been chewed up again by something. Last year I found



yellow fuzzy caterpillars. The "grassy knoll" has not been finished but grasses purchased and slowly becoming unhappy in the containers. It seems time is not on my side again this summer. My husband was able to install our last side walk by the pussy willow tree and dirt pile aka nursery with the large concrete squares that we purchased and stored in the grassy knoll last year. We just have to move all the excess dirt to other areas in the garden. Again, time is not on our side, but still a goal to complete before winter.

The Elephant and the Bee

By Laura Wilson

Adopted from Karen Weintraub, NY Times
Elephants are afraid of bees. This is a joke, right?
It's no joke, and these African honeybees solve one problem in managing wildlife and farming together.

Elephantsandbees.com

East African elephants have enjoyed a midnight snack of farmer's maize or vegetables, ever since people there started farming, driving owners to shoo and shoot them away. Poachers join the killing for the ivory. So what to do?

Build a fence!

"When bees swarm — and African (honeybee) bees swarm aggressively, they hurt. Hundreds of bees might sting an elephant in its most sensitive areas, the trunk, mouth and eyes."

It's odd to think of bees as prevention, but they are an environmental solution to this conflict. No more venomous, African bees are more aggressive than bees in Europe or Asia."



The threat of bees is so intensely felt by elephants that conservationists are using it to help prevent these stand-offs between man and beast.

By stringing beehives every 20 meters — alternating with fake hives — a team of scientists in Africa has shown that they can keep 80 percent of elephants away from farmland. Similar tests have been run on Asian elephants with success in scaring off the elephants.

These fences decorated with fake hives have another ecological solution. The fences also serve as a psychological barrier for the farmers, making them think twice before slashing and burning more forest for farmland, said Dr King of Save the Elephants. Farmers and researchers out up a bee fence in Sri Lanka.

Save the Elephants is a not for profit that produces the materials for these unique fences \$1,000 per 1 acre farm — and the farmer gets honey to sell! It's a win/win/win for elephants, farmers and bees. <http://www.savetheelephants.org/project/elephants-and-bees/>

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>

September Blooms in Members' Gardens





