



Naperville Community Gardeners

Kris Siuciak, Editor
Mary Wright, Distribution

January 2008
Established 1980

Purpose: To nurture the gardening interests of its members and the community through educational programs and community service projects.

Next Meeting

February 4, 2008 7 p.m.

John Greene Realty
1311 S. Highway 59, Naperville
(Hwy 59 and Montgomery Rd/83rd St)

Speaker: Donna Danielson,
Morton Arboretum
Topic: "How to Diagnose Plant
Problems"

2008 Officers

President	Rod Beary
Vice President	Robert Elvert
Secretary	Barbara Jones
Treasurer	Tom Campbell
Past President	Linda Thompson

BE SURE TO FIND:

Page 2 2008 Committee Chairs

Page 3 Fruit Tree Pruning

Youth Category Winner

From the President

Our first meeting of the year got off to a great start. Attendance was down a little but that gave us the opportunity to have a little more discussion on topics of interest to the club. The budget, prepared by Tom Campbell (treasurer) was approved. We allowed a few minutes at the beginning for people to introduce themselves and give their primary gardening interest to each other. I think it is important for members to get to know each other and expect to continue this practice. Come prepared to get acquainted with fellow gardeners who you may not normally talk to. Make sure to read the minutes of the meeting so skillfully recorded by Barbara Jones, secretary of the club.

One of the most impressive things to me about our club is the level of volunteerism. So many of our members volunteer to serve on a committee so that we can accomplish our mission to advance our gardening skills and interest. Thank you Linda Thompson for all the recruiting you did and thank all of you who have volunteered! There is a list of positions with who has offered to serve for this year. You may want to extend your appreciation for their efforts and if you are not already serving on one of the committees, feel free to volunteer to help. "Many hands make light work"...and it's fun.

We had a very interesting program in January put on by our own member Nick Papadolias. Nick told us about his family olive processing capabilities. He brought in samples (delicious!), props and pictures to supplement his presentation. Bottom line? Greek olive oil is the best in the world was Nick's unbiased assessment. No one present disagreed with him. I apologize to Nick for keeping him waiting due to all our discussion but appreciate his patience and performance. Thank you Bob Elvert for arranging the program.

Wanda Wohead is circulating a survey to get your inputs for this year's Fall Dinner and Linda Thompson

January 2008.doc

has sent out a survey asking for your ideas on how to make the club the best it can be. Please take the time to give them your ideas. Naperville Community Gardeners has a proud history thanks to all the efforts of past and present members who have given of their time and effort to make the club what it is. Members have fed the hungry, beautified our community, made donations and provided expertise to those less skilled in gardening. For most in the club, gardening is a passion that is best satisfied when shared with others. Let's keep up the good work.

-Rod Beary

**Naperville Community Gardeners
Committee Chairs 2008**

Annual Plant Sale.....	Mary Wright
Member Plants.....	Betty Ference
Community Projects: Benton Street Post Office.....Carolyn Finzer
Gardening Workshops.....	Ron Ory
Garden Plant a Row.....	Ben Calvert
Garden Plot Kiosk.....	Eleanor Holt
Garden Plot Judging.....	Wanda Wohead
High School Liaisons 204.....	Wanda Wohead
-----203.....	Kristie Siuciak
Naper Settlement.....	Eleanor Holt
Naper Settlement Rose Garden.....	Brian Bell
River Walk Cleanup.....	Linda Thompson
Riverwalk Gardens.....	Joe Pope
Flower and Garden Show.....	Tom Campbell
Harvest Banquet.....	Wanda Wohead
Historian.....	Carolyn Finzer
Library.....	Ben Calvert
Membership.....	Betty Ferrance
Meeting Refreshments.....	Linda Allison
Mini Show.....	Beth Engle
Newsletter.....	Kris Siuciak
Mail distribution.....	Mary Wright
Officer Nominating Committee.....	Jill Borlick
Organic Gardening Sub Group.....	Betty Ferrance
Photography.....	Patty Thompson
Picnic.....	Linda Thompson
Publicity.....	Linda Thompson
Programs.....	Bob Elvert
Shop and Share.....	Jill Borlick
Show Director.....	Rosemary Holdredge
Special Events.....	Betty Earl
Special Correspondence.....	Eleanor Holt
Website.....	Peter Klassen

Special Thanks...

The Club would like to offer their thanks to Nick for his generous donation of the beautiful book on Olives.

Car Pooling

Barbara Jones is collecting names of members who are interested in car pooling or need rides. Let her know if you are interested.

Reusing Yard Signs

We will once again be collecting discarded political candidate yard signs, after the upcoming elections. Barbara Jones will be re-furbishing them and re-using them to make signs for our spring Plant Sale."

Pre Printed Invitations Available

Barbara Jones has invitations for members to use to give to friends/neighbors who might be interested in coming to one of our meetings. She will be bringing them to the meetings to distribute. Call Barbar.

Fruit Tree Workshop

Whether you have one fruit tree or want to start a small orchard of your own, **Center for Sustainable Community** is offering a workshop to help you get started and have an abundant harvest using organic methods. Join experienced fruit producers, Mark Hoffman and Bill Land on Feb. 16, 1pm to 3:30pm for an afternoon dedicated to orchard design and tree pruning. The workshop will be held at Nisse Farm in Manteno, IL and following an indoor lecture everyone will get hands on pruning experience in its young orchard. Cost for the afternoon is \$35 and includes handouts.

How many times have you bitten into that peach from the grocery store and it is hard as a rock or if it is ripe there is only the faint hint of peach flavor? What is the solution to that? Plant a peach tree or a few fruits trees. This workshop will walk you through what you need to consider before you plant a fruit tree and what follows after it is in the ground including:

- Where to situate trees
- How to plant a fruit tree
- Choosing tree varieties
- How and when to prune
- Pruning berry bushes and canes

- Integrating the orchard with other plants as well as with animals.

To register for the workshop and learn more, please call Julie at 708/828-4325 or visit the website www.centerforsustainablecommunity.org/calendar.html

Center for Sustainable Community, CSC, is an educational, nonprofit organization offering seminars and workshops in holistic health, renewable energy, green building, and sustainable agriculture. It is located in Stelle, IL approximately 30 minutes southwest of Kankakee.

January Minutes Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, January 7, 2008

Call to order: 7:00 pm by Rod Beary, President. Rod started the meeting by asking attendees to introduce themselves to each other for a few minutes.

Welcome: Mel Finzer attended as a guest. Barb Bockman attended as a new member. Past President, Linda Thompson acknowledged officers and committee chairs. Rod Beary thanked our current committee chairs and handed out a list of new committee chairs. If anyone wants to work on any particular committee, please let Rod know. Please note that Wanda Wohead is High School Liaison for District 204 and Kristie Siuciak is High School Liaison for District 203.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: JoAnn Monge moved to approve the prior meeting minutes and Bob Elvert seconded the motion. Ron Ory motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Eleanor Holt seconded the motion. There weren't any major budget changes from 2007 to 2008. A little less money was allocated to the flower show as it wasn't needed. Mary Carter Beary motioned to vote on the budget and Linda Thompson 2nd it. The budget was voted upon and passed.

Announcements:

- Plant Sale - Mary Wright reserved the Garden Plots for the plant sale, and the Rubin Center for August 23rd for the flower show.
- Linda Thompson: Thanked everyone for their cards/calls on the loss of her mother. Linda would like people to return the questionnaire of club interests, to her. Please let her know if you would like a copy of the questionnaire.

"The Annual Passing of the Cactus" - Linda reported that she killed the cactus (with attention), and it will not be passed on to Rod Beary.

- Linda Allison - Has the refreshment list and is looking for people to sign up to bring refreshments.
- Barbara Jones (filling in for Betty Ference) reminded folks that yearly \$15 dues were due to the treasurer.
- Wanda Wohead - Has a questionnaire on the Harvest Banquet concerning our preferences on location and Bingo game. If you have any suggestions or opinions, please contact Wanda.

Old Business: Ron Ory asked if there were any changes to the bylaws. Linda Thompson said that Peter Klassen didn't make any changes. The bylaws were re-approved at the October meeting.

New Business:

- Barbara Jones said that she is collecting names of past/present club members who are/were veterans. She will be making a motion at the next meeting to donate \$10 for each veteran. Please contact her if you know of any veterans.
- Garden Plots: Rod Beary asked the club members if we as a club, are interested in taking over a portion of the Plant a Row for the Hungry, to run as a club, possibly as a demonstration plot, (to give us higher community profile) Wanda Wohead suggested that we put a sign on the plot of when garden club members will be there, as a way to have club members accessible to other people who are tending their plots. She suggested we tell the Park District so they can publicize this to other garden plot owners. Ron Ory said that we have to be careful about presenting ourselves as experts because there could be liability issues. Linda Thompson said this could be a very good opportunity for us to attract new members. Brian Bell said he has seen a nice garden in Rockford where the vegetables were labeled nicely and suggested we do something similar. Ron Ory said that other information could be put on the bulletin board at the kiosk. Eleanor Holt said that people don't often really look at the info on the kiosk. Ron suggested that at the club garden plot, we could have something that references the kiosk, and the Master Gardeners. Beth Engle cautioned the club that we have tried these sorts of projects before, and they don't get followed through on. She said we would

get better participation if it is a scheduled workday as a group effort and that we need to make sure to talk to Ben Calvert before we commit to anything. Ron Ory suggested that we put these proposals in the newsletter and talk about them at a future meeting. Tom Campbell said he will try to contact Ben.

- Brian Bell said that 15 years ago, he was approached by the Heritage Society of the Naper Settlement at the Pre-Emption House. They were looking to see if the club would be willing to maintain their roses. Brian does this, but he needs help with this from the club. JoAnn Monge stated that many club members are not aware of this commitment and that these types of commitments should be better publicized/organized within the club.
- Barbara Jones talked about a postcard which we can have printed up, which we can give out to friends/neighbors to invite them to one of our club members.
- Beth Engle wants the mini-show to be organized differently. It should get people interested in participating in the garden show. She is suggesting a \$5-10 raffle for people who participate in the mini-show or club members could vote on which "piece" should get the money. She sees this as a way for people to show the kinds of things that will be presented at the garden show. She is suggesting that for the flower show it is nice to have a "consumables" portion. She will bring tags for people to use when they bring things to the mini-show. There was no mini-show today.
- Wanda Wohead collected names on raffle tickets for a rosemary plant, coupons, and blood meal. Winners were Mel Finzer, Nick Papadolias, Brian Bell, Ann McNichols, Tom Campbell, Mary Carter Beary, Ron Ory, Dee Dobberstein, Linda Allison, Eleanor Holt, JoAnn Monge, Barbara Jones.
- Ann McNichols said that garden author, Pam Duthie will be speaking at the Naperville library on January 23rd.

Adjournment: Linda Thompson motioned to close the meeting, JoAnn Monge 2nd.

Presentation: Bob Elvert introduced our speaker, club member Nick Papadolias, who talked about growing olives. He donated a beautiful book about olives, to the club. Nick says that olives are "Mother Natures Greatest Gift to Humanity". He talked about their history, cultivation, and importance. The Palestinians were the first people to grow olives. Olives and the oil, have many medicinal properties (including lowering

cholesterol and preventing arteriosclerosis) and uses. Olive oil producing countries along the Mediterranean Sea are very serious about the quality of the oil and they are all big consumers of the oil. He talked about the growing conditions, cultivation and production difficulties. There are 2 ways to produce olive oil. The first pressing is virgin oil. A second pressing with water extracts regular grade olive oil. It takes 5 kilos of olives to produce 1 kilo of oil. Olive oil is just like a wine - there are many different qualities which vary considerably due to where it was produced. The best way to store olive oil is in a glass container, away from the sun, in a cool, dark place. It should not be stored in a container that will oxidize. He had samples of different olive oils for us to try. There is no side effect from over-consumption of olive oil so we all felt safe to drive home.