



Naperville Community Gardeners

Kris Siuciak, Editor
Mary Wright, Distribution

February 2009
Established 1980

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

Next Meeting

March 2, 2009

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

Speaker: Mary Saba of The Growing Place
Topic: Shade Gardening

2009 Officers

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

BE SURE TO FIND:

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From the President

Last Month when I wrote this column I was talking about the typical January snow and extreme cold spell we were having...now it's 50 degrees, the snow is gone and all we have to look at is our dreary and barren back yards and gardens. However, it does provide us an opportunity to inspect the impact from deer, rabbits, and other visitors.

And for those who haven't got enough from reading the gardening magazines and seed books you've received and need more to read, take a trip to the Naperville libraries. They are a great source for new ideas. Whether it's the current month or one from several years ago, you can get some great ideas from them. Even on the worst day, they can get a gardener excited about new plants, new designs, or the new and crazy vegetables out there these days.

I want to thank Patti Thompson for leading the February meeting, for I was out of town on business. Not only did she run a fine meeting, but I also understand our guest speaker Liz Holmberg was well received.

While it may still be the middle of winter, many things are happening behind the scenes within the Club and if you want to get more involved please don't hesitate to ask me ...or any committee chair how to get started.

Logan Wasson and I have begun reviewing last year's plant sale purchasing list versus what was sold in an attempt to pick the winners for this year's sale on May 9th. At the same time Linda Allison and Betty Ference are working on how to improve the member's plants

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for the sale. In addition this year, we've got 13 members so far who are joining Barbara Jones and Rod Beary's effort to sale theme or combination pots grown from seed in member's homes. If all goes well we're going to have an interesting plant sell. Over the next couple of months Linda and I will be telling you more about the sale and encourage as many as possible to sign up to assist to set-up, sale or takedown

For those members who cherish their indoor plants, please don't hesitate to bring them for our monthly mini-show. Some members have talked about their herb or flowers that they brought inside last fall, so let's see how their doing in early March....and by the way we're looking for a someone to chair the mini-show...(it only take s a few minute each meeting).

Just a couple of reminders for the March meeting: If you haven't paid your 2009 dues, please see Tom Campbell...and...if you need a new name tag, see Laurel LaLonde and she'll set you up with one.

Not only are we closer to Spring and Summer, we're getting closer to some of our major activities in which we'll need your assistance, so please sign up at the upcoming meetings. Hope to see you on March 2 meeting.

Bob

**Naperville Community Gardeners
Committee Chairs 2009**

Annual Plant Sale	Open
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:	
203	Kris Siuciak
204	Wanda Wohead
Naper Settlement	Eleanor Holt

Naper Settlement Rose Garden	Brian Bell
River Walk Clean Up	Linda Thompson
River Walk Gardens	Joe Pope
Flower and Garden Show	Tom Campbell
Harvest Banquet	OPEN
Historian	Carolyn Finzer
Library	Ben Calvert
Membership	Betty Ference
Meeting Refreshments	Linda Thompson
Newsletter	Kris Siuciak
Mail Distribution	Mary Wright
Officer: Nominating Committee	Jill Borlick
Photography	Patti Thompson
Organic Gardening Sub Group	Betty Ference
Picnic	Linda Thompson
Publicity	Linda Thompson
Shop and Share	Jill Borlick
Show Director	OPEN
Special Events	Betty Earl
Special Correspondence	Eleanor Holt
Web Site	Peter Klassen

Garden Workshops

Description:
Gardening Workshops Thinking of renting a garden plot? Perhaps you have some extra space in your backyard that's ideal for a garden. Whatever the case, here's a chance to get the scoop on gardening from a certified Master Gardener or an organic gardening expert. Designed for all gardeners, young and old, experienced or beginners, these FREE seminars offer helpful tips and practical suggestions on what, when, and how to plant and maintain your garden. All workshops take place at Sportsman's Club House, located at 735 S. West Street, west of the Martin Ave. and West St. intersection.

March 25, 31, April 21 and May 5, 2009
 From 7:00-9:00 pm

Recycling Extravaganza Benedictine University

Dan and Ada Rice Center Parking Lot
Benedictine University
5700 College Road
Lisle, IL

Sat, Mar 28 8am-1pm

ACCEPTED ITEMS: *Electronics (computers, TVs, monitors, phones, VCRs, video games, stereos, fax machines, copy machines & printers), Ink jet cartridges, Eye glasses, Hearing aids, Worn American flags, Cell phones, Bicycles in any condition (No Big Wheels or toddler-type bikes), SLA batteries (i.e.: cars, motorcycles, boats, lawn mowers, sump pumps & sport vehicles), Scrap Metal (no refrigerators or air conditioners)*

For information about any other items, please contact Eric Ertmoed at the Village of Lisle at 630-271-4124 or via email at eertmoed@villageoflisle.

A Note from Logan Wasson

Our club will be sending to the vendors the orders for plants that will be purchased for the Plant Sale, May 9, immediately after the Monday evening meeting.

As a point of interest for the sale, it would be very interesting for our customers to know who in the club had a great experience with our plants in their gardens. Sort of our own test gardens for our customers. So, think about your successes with our plants and let me know. Just jot down your thoughts and give them to me at the meeting. This will enable us to announce to the world that we will have our own experts, on site, to help with their plant selections.

February Minutes Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2009

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Patti Thompson, filling in for Bob Elvert

Welcome: We welcomed 4 guests/new members, Lee Ann Rockershousen, Cathy Hoffman, John Polich, and Cathy Smith.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Campbell presented the Treasurer's Report. Ron Ory motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, Logan Wasson 2nd. Continued from January's meeting, no update on the budget audit.

Minutes: Peter Klassen motioned to approve the last month's minutes, Betty Ference 2nd.

Announcements: The Chicago Flower Show is March 7-15 at Navy Pier. The Park District has some tickets left for the bus trip to the show. Marilyn Krueger from the Naperville Garden Club mentioned after the meeting that their scholarship applications are due in April. See www.napervillegardenclub.org

Old Business:

- **Plant Sale:** We need a chairperson or co-chairperson for the plant sale. The Plant Sale is Saturday, May 9th. Linda Allison talked to us about members' plants sub-committees. 1) There is a pricing sub-committee - which helped rope off the members' plants at the sale, and distributed the members' tickets, which enabled members to shop early. If you have any ideas - contact Linda. They price plants on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. 2) A sub-committee to pot up some nice Mother's Day plants. We need donations of nice, large containers. Wanda has a lot of pots if people want. 3) Label Making sub-committee - they create the labels to put in the members plants. Linda passed around a list of possible plants that folks might have, for donation. She encouraged members to start thinking about what plants they'd like to donate. 4) Setup sub-committee -

They helped to set up tables and put the plants onto the tables, at the sale.

- **Mini Show** - We need a chairperson. This is an easy position where you just present the items folks bring in to the meetings. Talk to Bob Elvert if interested.
- **Fall Banquet** - We need a chairperson or co-chairperson. Talk to Wanda Wohead for details.
- **Seed Starters:** Barbara Jones talked about the efforts of the 13 club members who are learning how to start seeds to grow plants to sell at our plant sale. This is a great learning/social opportunity - we've met twice to see different seed starting setups, share seeds, catalogs, pots, ideas etc. We are growing several different kinds of "6 -packs" such as: Heirloom Tomatoes, Basil Variety Pak, Container Veggie Pak, Leafy Green Variety Pak, Herb Pak, Salsa Kit Pak. Contact Barbara at 630-527-0122 if interested in joining the group.

New Business:

- **Ron Ory - The Park District Gardening Workshops:** March 31 and April 20th, and there will be some Organic Gardening Workshops. Members of the club are invited to assist/speak/attend at any of the workshops.
- **John Polich** - introduced himself. He is running for Park Commissioner. More information/contact is available on NaperGardens.com web site
- **Linda Thompson** - In the spring, our club assists the city with a mulching project along the river/Riverwalk. Date: TBD
- **Betty Ference** - Dues of \$15 are due. She has some club tee-shirts, both long and short sleeved. Contact her.
- **Laurel LaLonde** has name tags. If you need a new one, contact Laurel.

Mini-Show:

- Jan Bargmann brought in a lovely red Amaryllis which is blooming for the first time.
- Carolyn Finzer brought in some pictures of an orchid (it was too cold to bring the plant). She was the winner of the \$5 prize.
- Janice Gricus brought in Angel Trumpet pods for the seeds exchange and a Brazilian Fireworks plant.
- Randy Scheib brought in a Crimson Red Kalenchoe

Adjournment: Barbara Jones motioned to close the meeting. Betty Ference 2nd. Next meeting will be on March 2nd. Bring your extra seeds for our Seed Exchange!

Speaker: Patti Thompson introduced our speaker; Liz Holmberg, from Lizzie's Garden who spoke to us about some tropical plants and succulents. She just got back from a trip to Florida, and showed us a variety of really interesting houseplants: ZZ plant which is very easy to grow. A Pathos which looks like a nice chartreuse sweet potato vine, a Sanseveria 'Cylindrica' which looks like a spiky mohawk. She created two clear glass container gardens with mixed house plants. First she put large river pebbles into the bottom of the containers (there were no holes in the containers for drainage). She used a layer of sheet moss or moose moss for the next layer, to hold the soil and keep it from getting down into the pebble level. She then added a layer of about 1" of sand. Then she adds a layer of several inches of their special potting soil mixture which contains some fertilizer. She put in several varieties of mosses, with many beautiful types of texture and color. The other container, she filled with different varieties of succulents, such as crassulae, kalanchoes. She

sold many of these plants to club members at great prices.

She then presented a power point show called "Everything I Know, I Learned From a Plant". She made the following points: She said that people need to be patient with their plants - growing takes time, and fertilizing them to make them grow faster may not be right. The best thing to do at the end of the season is to clean up and get rid of old, sick plants. Pinching a plant is the best way to get a quality plant - it encourages a fuller plant. Most problems begin with an unhealthy root system. When purchasing a plant, always take it out of the pot to check to make sure there is a healthy root system. Plants that have to be babied get tiresome to take care of - its better to grow perennials that are suited for our region. (It's more cost effective also.) By forcing a plant to grow too quickly, you encourage softer growth. Plants that are hardened off in the spring can take colder temperatures. Holding plants too long in a warm greenhouse makes them soft and vulnerable. In cloudy or cooler weather, plants need less water. A plant can be hurt by too much or too little water. A grower can grow a plant in artificial soils, but real soil is the best for it to thrive. Each species of plant begins flowering in its own way. Light, day length, temperature, and season all may play a role in flowering. Some plants are more forgiving than others - plants that bounce back after drought and other stresses do better in the garden, because they're more resilient. Some plants need a dormancy period before they bloom again - a resting phase allows the plant to regain its energy.