

Naperville Community Gardeners

January 2009
Established 1980

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

2009 Officers

President

☞ Bob Elvert

Vice President

☞

Secretary

☞ Barbara Jones

Treasurer

☞ Tom Campbell

Past President

☞ Rod Beary

Look Inside...

Nametag Info 2

Plant Sale Needs Help 3

Rabbit Proof Plants 4

From The President



Nothing like Mother Nature and Old Man Winter getting together and bringing us plenty of snow and extremely cold temperatures at the same time....a typical January winter in Naperville, and even more reason to bundle up and plan for the upcoming planting season by flipping through with the latest gardening books and seed catalogs.

Speaking of seeds, Barbara Jones and Rod Beary's idea to start seed packs for the our Club's May 9th plant sale was well received and some members, both experienced and inexperienced, have signed up to exchange seeds, learn how to get them started, and hope to get sold at the sale. If interested please contact them.

I want to thank Patti Thompson for booking a very interesting January speaker, Bill Mitchell from Chicago Specialty Gardens. Not only did we find out what the latest is in city urban gardening plants and material sustainability, but also how it can be used as container gardening in our own yards. If you want to know more, he will be at the upcoming Chicago Garden Show at Navy Pier in early March.

While I've got your attention, we still have openings for the Plant Sale and Mini-Show Committee Chairs which are both vital to our club. The Plant Sale is our primary fundraiser and had a tremendous sale last year, and of course we are looking for another success in 2009. Linda Allison and I have started preparations, but we are looking for someone to at least Co-Chair. Thanks to Logan Wasson and Betty Ference for their leadership last year and willingness to help us in 2009. The Mini-Show Chair ensures the monthly presentations get organized, recognizes who brought them and presents a "prize" each month. Thanks to Beth Engle for helping last year.

Another thanks goes out to Laurel LaLonde who stepped up to take charge and make new plastic name tag for every member and save costs along the way. You can still use the previous pin tag if you have one.

To allow members sufficient time to possibly attend any upcoming outside garden club meetings or shows, please provide the information to the Newsletter as early as possible to minimize discussion time during our monthly meetings.

Spring will be amongst us soon enough....I'm looking forward for the club to have a great year.

Bob

NEXT MEETING

2/2/2009

John Green Realty
1311 S. Route 59
(Corner of Route 59
and Montgomery
Road/83rd Street)

Speaker:

Topic:

Naperville Community Gardeners Committee Chairs 2008

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 Judging	Wanda Wohead
Garden Kiosk	Eleanor Holt
High School Liaisons	
District 204	Wanda Wohead
District 203	Kris Siuciak
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	Wanda Wohead
Historian	Carolyn Finzer
Library	Ben Calvert
Membership	Betty Ference
Meeting Refreshments	Linda Thompson
Mini Show	OPEN
Newsletter	Kris Siuciak
Mail Distribution	Mary Wright
Officer Nominating Committee	Jill Borlick
Organic Gardening Sub Group	Betty Ference
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

Ready, Set, Grow!

Winter classes continue at the DuPage office of the University of Illinois Extension Service. Here are the February offerings:

- Spring Flowering Shrubs for the Home Landscape - February 10, 1:00 p.m. (\$10.00)
- Spring Flowering Shrubs for the Home Landscape - February 12, 7:00 p.m. (\$10.00)
- Ornamental Grasses - February 24, 1:00 p.m. (\$10.00)
- Ornamental Grasses - February 26, 7:00 p.m. (\$10.00)

For more information about the classes and registration, visit <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage/hort>. Some of our members may not know that the DuPage unit of the Extension Service has moved to Naperville. It

is located in one of the old Lucent buildings on Warrenville Road.

DuPage County Unit
1100 E. Warrenville Road
Suite 170
Naperville, IL 60563
Phone: 630-955-1123

January Minutes Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, January 5, 2009

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Welcome: We welcomed guest Dorothy Deer.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Campbell presented the end of year Treasurer's Report. Peter Klassen motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, Patti Thompson 2nd, and membership voted to approve. Peter Klassen recommended that we have someone from the club audit the Treasurer's Reports for the last 3 years. Nancy Carroll has a neighbor who might be available to do it. Judy Kanarek, Janice Gricus and Wanda Wohead volunteered to do it. Ron Ory asked that he would like to donate some money to the city for planting some trees at the schools. Tom Campbell presented the 2009 Proposed Budget. Betty Ference said that the cost of name tags has gone up to \$10 each so Laurel LaLonde proposed switching to the plastic name tags with the inserts. Nancy Carroll approved this and Ron Ory 2nd this with club member approval. Laurel LaLonde volunteered and was authorized to get these. Peter Klassen moved to accept the budget, Linda Thompson 2nd and membership approved. **Please note:** If you are a member and you need a nametag, please contact Laurel.

Minutes: Ron Ory motioned to approve the last month's minutes, Linda Thompson 2nd.

Announcements: Barbara Jones passed along thanks from Gloria Wilger for those who attended Bernie's funeral service and sent cards. Betty Ference said that yearly membership dues of \$15 are due.

Old Business:

- **Plant Sale:** Bob Elvert said that we still need a chairperson or co-chairperson for the plant sale. The Plant Sale is May 9th.
- **Garden Plots** - Chuck Prock said the Park District is having a meeting this Thursday at 7:00 pm at city hall to discuss the latest proposal on the relocation of some of the garden plots. He recommends that interested parties attend to learn more or to voice your opinion.

New Business:

- **Nancy Carroll:** When we lose a member of our club (like Bernie Wilger) we could do something to recognize or commemorate them such as a permanent plaque or new trophy for the Flower Show. Club members seemed receptive to this and recommended it be discussed by the Flower Show committee.
- **Nick Papadolias** had calendars made with gorgeous photos of dahlias. He is offering to make more of these for club members. Contact him if interested.
- **Barbara Jones** is looking for club members who are interested in growing out some vegetable or herb seeds for the plant sale. We will be focusing on making 6 pack sets of special varieties of plants to be grown in containers. Example a "Veggie" 6 pack of 1 each eggplant, sweet pepper, spinach, chili pepper, zucchini, tomato. A "Leafy" 6 pack of 1 each kale, chard, spinach, sorrel, beet, turnip. A "Basil" 6 pack of 1 each of different varieties of basil. Contact her if interested.
- **Wanda Wohead** - has many pots for folks who want to use these. She will start to bring these in to the meetings.
- **Rod Beary** - Seed Exchange at February meeting. Bring extra seeds (with labels) to next month's meeting. He is getting a group of club members together who are interested in learning how to start some seeds for the plant sale. No previous experience is necessary - it's a great way to learn a lot!
- **Linda Thompson** - refreshments. Please sign up to bring treats for the meetings.
- **Bob Elvert:** Beth Engle is no longer going to do the mini-show. We're looking for someone interested in doing this.
- **Carolyn Finzer:** On May 5th Betty Earl is going to speak at the library on what's new in gardening. Check the library program booklet or web site for details.

Mini-Show:

- Patti Thompson brought in a beautiful striped Papillion Amaryllis.
- Freda Haller brought in a lovely large leaf dark purple African Violet.
- Nick Papadolias has extra dahlia pictures for folks to take.

Adjournment: Barbara Jones motioned to close the meeting. Betty Ference 2nd. Next meeting is February 2nd. All meetings are on Monday nights except for Tuesday September 15th.

Speaker: Patti Thompson introduced our speaker; Bill Mitchell from Chicago Specialty Gardens

(www.chicagogardens.com) to talk about "Sustainable Approaches to Roof Garden Design".

Green Roofs have many benefits - they look beautiful and help keep the environment and building cooler. A roof garden is more of a living space than the large scale green roof concept.

Bill showed us photos of several stunning design projects that they did. He likes to bring in many different elements such as water, natural materials like pebbles, bamboo, different containers and create separate living areas.

Microclimates can be a real issue even in small spaces. Many of these ideas can be easily translated to land based gardens.

Winter interest is important so trees, shapes, structure, containers etc are key design elements. They used different soil mixes for different plant materials, rather than using top soil which is very heavy.

Midwest Groundcovers in St. Charles (<http://www.midwestgroundcovers.com>) is a good place to get different soil mixes.

Shade Tree Canopies (<http://www.shadetreecanopies.com>) is a good place for canopies and awnings.

Sunbrella fabric (<http://www.sunbrella.com>) is used on outdoor furnishings. LiveRoof (<http://liveroof.com>) is a source for Green Roof Modules.

Master Garden Products (<http://www.mastergardenproducts.com>) has nice outdoor materials like bamboo and willow.

They will have a large exhibit at the 2009 Chicago Flower Show (<http://www.chicagoflower.com>).

...from P Allen Smith's Newsletter

<http://www.pallensmith.com/>

Rabbit Proofing Your Garden

Q I have lots of rabbits in the area and they are feasting on our plants, especially the rose bushes. How can I keep the rabbits away from the plants without harming either the rabbits or the plants?
Springfield, IL

A Short of encircling your property with a rabbit proof fence, there is not much you can do to keep Peter Cottontail out of your garden. Instead of launching a losing battle, I advise you to create a garden that will suffer the least amount of damage when they pass through.

Rabbits are timid creatures that will not hang around where they do not feel safe. You can make your garden less attractive by clearing out areas where they can hide such as clumps of under brush or piles of wood. Create flower beds that are out in the open, away from tree lines and shrubbery.

Encircle the base of young trees with 1/4 inch hardware cloth to prevent rabbits from eating the bark. Hardware cloth is a metal mesh similar to chicken wire. This is important in winter when rabbits' food supplies are scarce. Set the hardware cloth up about 1 foot away from the trunk of the tree and bury it 2 to 3 inches below the ground.

A rabbit will try anything once, especially when it comes to tender new growth. If you have an area where new plants are emerging, cover it with bird netting. Make sure the corners are securely fastened. This is especially useful in the vegetable garden.

A final consideration is to choose plants that are unappealing to rabbits. These include plants that are highly aromatic, prickly, leathery or poisonous. There is no guarantee that these plants will not get eaten, but just maybe your neighbor will have planted something more appetizing. Here is a short list of plants rabbits avoid.

Annuals: Ageratum, Angelonia, Coleus, Impatiens, Nicotiana, Osteospermum, Petunia, Sunflower
Toernia, Verbena

Perennials: Agapanthus, Ajuga, Amsonia, Anemone, Artemisia, Astilbe, Bear's Britches, Black-eyed Susan, Bleeding Heart, Clematis, Columbine, Crocosmia, Daylily, Euphorbia, Ferns, Foxglove (bi-annual), Hellebore, Heuchera, Hollyhock (bi-annual), Honeysuckle, Hosta, Iris, Lady's Mantle, Lamb's Ear, Lamium, Leucanthemum, Leucorum, Lily of the Valley, Liriope, Miscanthus, Monk's Hood (Aconitum), Penstemon, Peony, Rhubarb, Sea Holly, Sedum, Toad Lily

Trees and Shrubs: Aucuba, Azalea, Bottle Brush, Boxwood, Butterfly Bush, Dogwood, Elaeagnus, Eucalyptus, Hydrangea, Lilac, Mock Orange, Rose of Sharon, Sambuca

Bulbs: Allium, Bluebells, Daffodil, Dahlia, Muscari

Herbs: Catnip, Dill, Lavender, Mint, Rosemary, Sage

Dreaming of Spring?

As the snow drifts past the window in big, fluffy flakes, cold settles in for a stay, and our gardens are in their temporary state of suspension, should we settle down near the fireplace and vegetate? I think not! This is the time for dreaming and planning.

For those of us lusting for container plantings, this March, Proven Winners will be putting on their first (hopefully annual) "Outdoor Living Extravaganza". I don't know about the rest of you, but by March I am truly ready for some time spent talking plants. Check this out:

http://www.provenwinners.com/ce_index.cfm?OutdoorLiving

The keynote speaker is P. Allen Smith (there are also others), there will be a continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, door prizes, a "goody" bag they're estimating worth approximately \$100 plus free plants (Proven

Winners is always very generous with their plants), photo ops with P.Allen... all for the very reasonable price of \$45.00/person...and not downtown, but in Barrington.

And no, I have no association with Proven Winner, I just found this interesting and thought some of you might find it the same.

Stay warm!!

Betty Earl

From the Farmer's Almanac

Herbs:

Here are a few plants and what they symbolize:

Fennel - flattery

Lavender - devotion

Marjoram - joy

Rosemary - remembrance

Sorrel - affection

Tarragon - lasting interest