



Naperville Community Gardeners

Kris Siuciak, Editor
Mary Wright, Distribution

June 2009
Established 1980

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

Next Meeting

August 3, 2009 @ 7:00 PM

John Greene, Realtor

1135 S. Route 59, Naperville

Potluck Dinner

*Bring your favorite summer dish - hopefully featuring
homegrown garden goodies!
Bring a copy of your recipe.*

2009 Officers

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

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From the President

With spring flowers still in bloom and rain coming down on what seems to be a daily basis, it's hard to believe that the first day of summer is just around the corner. Let's hope that Mother Nature doesn't go straight to August and pass July by.

I want to thank Patti Thompson for the interesting June meeting presentation at the Naperville Country Club. It's truly a well orchestrated effort on behalf of their maintenance group to keep the beautifully redesigned course in accordance to the many city, county, and state native and natural area regulations.

In talking to a few members, they've been late in getting their vegetable garden in the ground due to the weather and busy schedules, but there is still plenty of growing time yet this summer. The other day, I harvested by first "NCGC seed growers" multi-pack mixed salad and it was great! and I'm looking forward to their heirloom tomatoes later in the summer. Speaking of gardens, don't be shy to stop by the Club's garden plots to pick a few weeds and help maintain it.

While we don't have a formal meeting this month, there is still the July 18th Garden Walk and Picnic for socializing, food, and early expectations discussions about the August Plant Show. Even if you don't have time to visit member's gardens, please make an effort to join other members at the picnic.

The annual NCGC donation presentation to the Naperville Park District for River walk maintenance and improvements was well received and appreciated by their Executive Director Ray McGury and the rest of the Board.

August 3rd Meeting Reminder – Reconvene back at Green Realty

HAPPY GARDENING.....

Bob Elvert

Naperville Community Gardeners Committee Chairs

Annual Plant Sale	Logan Wasson/ Bob Elvert
Member Plants	Linda Allison
Community Projects	
Benton Street Post Office	Carolyn Finzer
Gardening Workshops	Ron Ory
Garden Plant-A-Row	Ben Calvert/Tom Campbell
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	Laurel LaLonde
Historian	Carolyn Finzer
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/ Laurel LaLonde
Publicity	Laurel LaLonde
Programs	Patti Thompson
Shop and Share	Jill Borlick
Show Directory	Laurel LaLonde
Special Events	Betty Earl
Special Correspondence	Eleanor Holt
Website	Peter Klassen

Member Garden Tour and Picnic July 18, 2009

Please join us for another fun tour of members' gardens! This year's hosts include Nick Papadolias, Ann McNichols, Esther Prock and Carolyn Finzer. Carolyn will be our picnic host.

Things to bring:

- Spouses, family, friends or other interested gardeners
- A lawn chair to sit on
- Tables if you have them
- Your own plates & silverware (reduce, reuse, recycle!)
- A dish to pass, along with serving utensils:
A-M please bring a salad or appetizer
N-Z please bring a dessert

The club will provide grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, cold drinks and napkins.

Approximate time schedule and gardens are as follows. Please feel free to join us anywhere along the route.

- 8:30 Drop food, chairs, etc. off at Carolyn's. Coolers will be on the driveway near the garage door. Proceed to Prairie School – 500 S. Charles, Naperville. Park in Prairie School parking lot.
- 8:50 Depart Prairie School
- 9:30 Arrive Nick's garden
- 10:00 Depart Nick's garden
- 10:30 Arrive Ann's garden
- 11:00 Depart Ann's garden
- 11:15 Arrive Esther's garden
- 11:45 Depart Esther's garden
- 12:00 Arrive Carolyn's garden – park at Prairie School

Please let Linda Thompson, 630-753-2361 or Laurel LaLonde, (630-355-3035 or laurelb06@yahoo.com) know if you plan to attend and if you can provide any tables so we can be sure to have enough burgers and hot dogs!

Garden Descriptions & Directions

Nick Papadolias, 605 S. Calumet Ave., Aurora, IL 60506

9:30-10:00

Directions from Prairie School: South on S. Charles St. (.3 miles), Right on E. Gartner Rd.(1.3 miles), Left on Modaff Rd. (.3 miles), Right on 75th St. (4 miles), left on Ogden Ave. Continue to follow US-34 west (4 miles), slight right onto US-30 (3.5 miles), Take the IL-31 ramp toward Montgomery/Aurora/Oswego (.2 miles), left on S. Lake St./IL-31 (1.5 miles), left on Jericho Rd. (.3 miles), right on Terry (.2 mile), left on Sundown Dr. (.2 mile), right on S. Calumet Ave. (.2 miles).

Nick's garden is what he likes to call "plain dirt." It features 50-60 different specimens of dahlias, large Marigolds, Snapdragons, Impatiens, Cannes, Delphiniums, 10 kinds of hostas, ferns, peonies, Japanese bamboo, Chinese bamboo, azaleas, Wisteria, trumpeters, grapes (climbing vines), Plumeria, geraniums, Basil, Elephant ears, phlox, flax, lilies, evergreen trees, tomatoes, peppers, egg plants, cucumbers and yellow squash.

Nick's garden also features:

- a waterfall surrounded by his wife's plants, all of which are supposed to be blue or white, but one of which returned pink this year. (Note: two types of flowers in his wife's garden are weeds, but they're blue, so they stay.)
- a pond with solar power
- dove house filled with mourning doves

Ann McNichols, 2403 Foxboro Lane, Naperville, IL 60564

10:30-11:00

Directions from Nick's: south on S. Calumet Ave (.2 miles), left on Sundown Dr. (.2 miles), right on Terry Ave. (.2 miles), left on Jericho Rd., (.3 miles), right on S. Lake St./IL-31 (1.6 miles), Merge onto US-30 E toward Joliet (3.6 miles), left on US-34/US-30. Continue to follow US-34 east (3.0 miles), right on Montgomery Road/83rd Street (about 2 miles), right on Rt. 59, next light left on 87th Street (Walgreens is on the corner) go about ½ mile down and turn right on Foxboro Lane.

"I started gardening about 11 years ago when we moved into a new subdivision (was a cornfield at one time, no trees in sight!) When the neighbors starting spending \$20,000 – 40,000 on landscaping – I thought for that kind of money I can do it myself. So I enrolled in Horticulture classes at the Morton Arboretum and received their Certificate of Horticulture. Then enrolled

in the Master Garden program and worked with them for about 4 – 5 years. I have very little lawn left – upfront just in the parkway and in the back, just a grass path.

On your tour please check out the different varieties of trees (see below), 2 rain barrels, a compost pile, 4 rooms to eat in and a fire pit." - *Ann*

Acer palmatum – 'Bloodgood' Japanese Maple, Ginkgo biloba, Cornus mas – Corneliancherry Dogwood, Acer griseum – Paperbark Maple, Metasequoia glyptostroboides – Dawn Redwood, Cercidiphyllum – Katsura, Heptacodium miconides – Seven Son Flower, Pinus strobes 'Pygmaea', Parrotia, Robinia pseudoacacia – Purple Robe Locust, Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk' – Japanese Tree Lilac, Ulmus jap. X wilsoniana – 'Morton' Accolade Elm, Redbud, Pear, Maples, Ashes, Spruce, Birch, Serviceberry, Magnolia, Arborvitae, Oak, etc.

Esther Prock, 1381 Ginger Ln., Naperville, 60565

11:15-11:45

Directions from Ann's: north on Foxboro, right on 87th, after passing Modaff turn right on Ring Rd., right on Washington St., right (south) on Naper Blvd., left on Royce Rd., left on Lisson Rd., right on Ginger Lane.

"I'd describe our gardens as "made in the shade but stunned in the sun." The shade gardens include places to sit and view the gardens. There are lamium, hostas, woodland poppies, brunneria, cimicifuga, columbine. I am in the process of expanding and redesigning the sun gardens so things are in flux. I'm hoping for "presentable" by the July tour. Right now there are a jumble of tree peonies, poppies (which will be long gone by July), cone flowers, daylillies, knautia. cannas. I'll welcome all suggestions by our visitors." - *Esther*

Carolyn Finzer, 970 Sylvan Circle, Naperville, 60540

Noon

Directions from Esther's: west on Ginger Lane (.1 mile), right on Lisson Rd., (.8 miles), left on Wehrli Rd., (.9 miles), left on 75th St. (1.4 miles), right on Washington St. (.8 miles), right on Gartner Rd. (.5 mile), left on Julian St. (.7 mile), right on W. Porter Ave. (.1 mile), slight right on E. Porter Ave/White Oak Dr. (.0 mile), slight left onto E. Porter Ave. (.1 mile), slight right onto Sylvan Circle (.1 mile).

Carolyn's home is on a street with limited parking. It may be easiest to park at Prairie School, 500 S. Charles. Park at the school, walk west down Prairie

and then take the shortcut through the back yard of her friend's home (925 Prairie Avenue) to enter Carolyn's backyard. Enter by Carolyn's green cabin looking storage shed. Carolyn does suggest wearing long pants in her yard.

Carolyn's garden is a potpourri of plants and antique Objects de Art in a one-acre, multi-award winning prairie-woodland yard. Eclectic and artful thematic "garden rooms" enchant visitors as they meander down wood chip trails (this is a no mow yard) to discover The Empress Asian Tea Garden, The Fairy Garden, The Goddess Grotto, The Native American Dreamcatcher Garden (Circle of Friends Fire Pit and Peace Pole), Celebrate Diversity Friendship Grove, and varied pergolas. Sixty-two herbs; a glass orchid house; 48 bat, bird and butterfly boxes; seven small water gardens; swings; a hammock; stone "Energy Spiral" (ground sculptures); and a Rain Garden welcome visitors. The garden also has a rain barrel, a small green roof, and a cabin in the woods with a game board.

Awards include: certification by the National Wildlife Federation, Wild Ones, Conservation Foundation; certified as an Illinois Audubon Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary; certified as a Monarch Wayside through the University of Kansas; 2003 Blazing Star Award from Willowbrook Wildlife Haven, recognizing its excellence in eco-systems, preservation, and protection; featured in Chicagoland Gardening and Birds and Blooms Magazines.



June Minutes Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2009

Call to order: An abbreviated business meeting was held after the tour/speaker. Meeting was held at Naperville Country Club. Peter Klassen motioned to table the bulk of the business meeting until our next meeting, Linda Thompson 2nd.

Business:

- **Plant Sale :** The plant sale went well, and we met our \$ target. Barbara Jones is collecting the plant sale yard signs - drop them at her house (1043 E. Gartner Rd.) or contact her for pickup 527-0122.
- **Linda Thompson** - Member picnic and garden walk is normally held in July. She would like help with this project and volunteers to put their

gardens on the garden walk. The picnic will be held at Carolyn Finzer's house. Contact Linda at 548-2629.

- **Patti Thompson** - Our August meeting will cooking food that we grow. Bring your recipes!
- **Bob Elvert** - The plant sale will be at the Barn this year. Tom Campbell is the show chairman.

Mini-Show: Jan Gricus brought peonies and clematis. Wanda Wohead brought in Romaine lettuce.

Speaker: We had a special meeting this month. Our meeting was held at Naperville Country Club. They have done a huge renovation of the 124 acres of club grounds, including rerouting 14 golf holes, four new buildings, new utility serves, new irrigations systems, new stormwater and floodwater systems (including a rerouting of the floodway which resulted in a filtering benefit, and slowing down and retaining storm water), new parking lots and landscaping, transplanting 150 trees and removal of 330 trees, all done from fall 2005 - fall 2007. Over 150,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved for this project!! Tim Anderson gave us a very informative tour of the maintenance garage including all the specialized maintenance and mowing equipment. We then had a tour of the grounds, highlighting the beautiful Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). These are protected areas primarily around ponds, detention basins and wetlands, which are planted with native plants. These native plantings provide filtering of rain/runoff which remove impurities and chemicals before the water enters the ponds/wetlands, thereby improving the water quality. The ESAs are restricted areas so carts and people are not allowed in there, in order to protect the integrity of the plantings. These native plant areas also provide an ever-changing display of flowers, plants, birds and insects. After the tour, we had refreshments in the club house, and a slide presentation by Tim which detailed all of the grounds renovation work. The project was a long term, extensive project which required many permits and interactions with various government and regulatory agencies. The weather during the construction period, made things difficult, including record rains, early snow, resulting in erosion problems, and destroying plantings. Erosion control mechanisms included silt fences, hay bales, silt traps, sod, straw pellets, wood chips, mulches, Futerra blankets, diversionary routes to dissipate and meandering routes to slow down water. The erosion control program cost almost \$275,000 alone, almost 10% of the entire project cost! The club has even won several national awards for the renovation project and have applied for certification in the prestigious Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.