



Naperville Community Gardeners

Kris Siuciak, Editor
Mary Wright, Distribution

March 2009
Established 1980

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

Next Meeting

April 6, 2009

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

Speaker: Stephanie Dalton, Uof IL Extension

Topic: Curb Appeal!

2009 Officers

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

BE SURE TO FIND:

Page 2 Riverwalk Clean up

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From the President

Finally...the Spring-type weekend everyone has been waiting for to get outside and enjoy the sun and warm temperature and while you're out there... check the condition of the gardens and even do some yard work. I hope everyone was able to enjoy part of it. Like everything else, the Club is also coming out of its annual hibernation as springtime is busy time for its activities.

Most of importance is the Plant Sale scheduled for Saturday May 9th, only 33 days from our April 6th meeting. It is our annual fundraiser and while we can't predict the weather, we do know that its success depends a lot on the Club's membership being able to help in every way. Whether it be making tags for member plants, completing the nursery plant purchase plants order, helping setting up on Friday, assisting sales on Saturday and lastly, taking the tent down and cleaning up before the last person leaves, your assistance is needed. So...even if for only a couple of hours, please sign up on one of the many volunteer lists at the April meeting.

Another important event is the annual Riverwalk mulch workday. Linda Thompson is in charge and is looking for help at this year's event on Saturday, April 18th. So come on out, except

when it's pouring rain like last year, have some hot coffee and delicious donuts. Where else can you socialize and work at the same time and still get compliments for your work well done. The Park District really appreciates our effort, and because of our location, it makes a great statement for the Club.

Speaking of the Naperville Park District, we're still looking for volunteers to help out at their Garden Workshops on March 31 and April 21 at Sportsman Park clubhouse 7-9p.m. Get in touch with Ron Ory if you have any questions.

If you haven't paid your dues...please be sure to see Tom Campbell or Betty Ference before the meeting. If you want a nametag, especially to wear at the plant sale, be sure to contact Laurel LaLonde at the April meeting so she doesn't get swamped with orders the week of the sale.

Speaking of getting results from our volunteering and service to the community, The NCGC has recently been identified by the Naperville Jaycees as a 2009 finalist for the "Earth" category within their distinguished service awards program. This is a new category with emphasis of educating the community on how to reduce its carbon footprint. The award will be given out at their April 24th ceremony. More on this at the April 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

Riverwalk Clean Up

Mark your calendar! The date for the Riverwalk mulching will be April 18. I will provide details when I get more from the city.

Thanks
Linda

Garden Workshops

Still looking for volunteers.

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

UPDATE

So far Bob Elvert, Barb Jones, Betty Ference, Logan Wasson, Brian Bell, and Eleanor Holt, Laurel LaLonde and Jan have volunteered to help conduct the gardening workshops scheduled for March 31st and April 21st (7 to 9 pm) at Sportsman's Park Clubhouse. At the March 31st workshop, some club members will present some tips on seed starting. As of a week ago, there were 15 people signed up for this workshop and somewhat less for the April one. It's not too late to participate either as a member of our panel of AVID gardeners or as an audience member. The programs are free through the park district.

Another Free Workshop

Grow Your Own Edibles in Small Spaces
at the Growing Place in Aurora on Saturday March 21
at 10:00 am

<http://www.thegrowingplace.com/classes.htm>

Invitation from:

**Naperville Garden Club Spring Field Trip
HORNBAKER'S GARDENS
PRINCETON, IL
Tuesday, May 19, 2009 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

This wonderful Garden is filled with 100's of varieties of beautiful Hostas, Iris and other plants. Have your lunch in the charming Gazebo. Plants are available for sale and will fit on the bus. Air conditioned coach bus has a bathroom. Trip cost includes a delicious box lunch from Panera Bread: Great Sandwich (choice of Turkey, Ham/Cheese, Roast Beef, or Veggie), Pickle, Chips, Fresh Apple, Yummy Giant Cookie, Bottled Water.

Depart/Return location: Market Meadows Parking Lot (75th St & Naper Blvd) by Jewel. Park near the bank.

Cost \$25 for club members, friends, neighbors, moms, sisters, husbands, wives etc. No children please.

Dress: Casual, Comfortable, dress for the weather. Bring your umbrella, suntan lotion and camera!

Space is limited - so please sign up soon! Your Check is your Trip Deposit.

Nancy Carroll - 416-1022

Canning Supplies for Sale!

A woman in Naperville is selling all of her canning supplies. She has a LOT of stuff at great prices. Check out www.napervilleyardsales.com and search on canning. Her name is Candy Jackson and her email address is candyjackson@comcast.net You can contact her by email or through the web page.

Barbara

Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2009

(as provided by Joann Monge)

Call to order at: 7:08 by Bob Elvert, President

Welcome, Members and Guests

Approve:

February 2, 2009 minutes motion by Betty Ference

Treasure's Report Feb \$13,847.46 by Tom Campbell

Announcements:

- Chicago Flower Show @ Navy Pier (March 7-15)
- Daily Herald had front page article on our Garden Club
- Hausermann having their orchid show in Villa Park this weekend.
- Pay dues now. (\$15) Next month will be \$20.
- Garden show is going to be in the Barn Aug 22, 2009, because of construction in Rubin center

Old Business:

- Chairpersons for mini-show and Fall Banquets: Found people
- Budget Audit Update: Tom Campbell and Judy Kanarek are working on it.
- Seed Starters: Some members are planning to try starting seeds to sell at the plant sale. No discussion.
- Naperville Park District Garden Workshops: Ron announced the dates of March 31 And April 21 at Sportsman Park clubhouse 7-9p.m. Asking for people to help with the presentation. Last year had 25 members in each class. Vicki Nowicki is having 2 classes (free). Just sign up with Park District.
- Riverwalk Clean-up: April 18 (Sat) at 8A.M. Meet at usual location

- May 9 is plant sale date. Set up May 8. Will use 3 vendors. Same as last year. Asking for people to e-mail Logan with results of growing various annual plants. This way we can say we have had success with these plants. The club will buy about \$6500 worth of plants. (Down from last year.) . Is tweaking the order. This year we will have less hanging baskets.
- Member portion need a couple of people to help with pricing.
- Member plant sale form is available to help indicate what garden plants you will be bringing to the sale.
- Betty will place a Tee shirt order soon. It is nice to have everyone in the club wear shirts for the sale.
- Logan asked when we give the checks to the high schools. Tom answered that after the sale, usually in the fall. Goes to the horticulture department. We need to look into this for Metea High School. It was brought up the Naperville Central does not use the greenhouse. The executive board will look into who is using the money donated to the high schools.

New Business:

Marilyn Krueger announced the Naperville Garden Club is offering scholarships

Standing Committee Reports

Mini-Show:

Marilyn Krueger – Amaryllis

Ester-Black Pearl Amaryllis

Bonnie Oulman brought christmas cactus blossom (plant is 35 years old)

Brian Bell showed picture of Dahlia-Boudaceous (orange with white tips, grows to 5 ft tall)

Nick showed some pictures of dahlias

Show and tell winner is Ester Prock.

Seed exchange will happen during break in front of the room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40

Refreshment Break:

Speaker is Mary Saba from the Growing Place.

Topic: Shade Gardening

The Growing Place catalog was handed out to everyone present. In the front is a plant guide for the local area. Page 188 has information on recycling of pots. No one takes the 6-pack pots. You're making a cake. The frosting is the flowers. Batter is the plants.

Most common and hardest problem is dry shade. Trees like fungus. Grass likes bacteria. Basic reason the two don't grow well together. Building shade is permanent. Tree shade is variable. The leaves move. You need to know your shade type.

Lots of mature trees lead to root competition. Can't add more than 2-4 inches of soil or will kill the tree. Tree roots need air. So do a friable mix of compost. Don't make lawn the design. Make it part of the design. Edging doesn't work. Frost heave rips it up. Does not keep the grass from the garden bed.

Tree roots in top 6 to 12 inches. Small rain garden--All water from drain spot lead to center. Maples are difficult-dry out the soil. Utilize microclimates.

Sun is not the same morning to afternoon. Morning sun to afternoon shade is easier to find plants than the reverse. Silver Maple roots compete so strongly for moisture that not much else can grow.

Incorporate garden art. Steppables need to have the crowns below the height of the stepping stones. Turn shade areas into garden rooms. Showed several rain gardens. Garden moments: having small containers in the gardens. Can move them as needed. Evergreens: Small list of what will grow under them. Try containers. House plants in containers. Still in the pots in another container.

Plants: showing difference of same plant in sun and shade. Showed slides of several new varieties.

Ajuga-Black scallop Lamium Ghost is slow to establish. Dry shade, loose soil

Coral Bells: shorter lived plant, about 4 to 5 years. Need dryer shade. Last summer was too wet.

They rotted out. Need good drainage. Leaves change color with warmer temps

Heucherella Bergenia-spring flowering, New Magic Giant

Hellebore gives 3 season color. Leaves are thick and sharp. Bunny proof because poisonous.

New Hostas are concentrating on flowers. Giants Alliums mixed in a bed of Hostas.

Fine scale bird net over plants because of a big problem with bunnies and deer.

Pulmonaria is often over watered. Columbine is often next to tree trunk of Pin Oak. Grows best in poor soil. Mahonia easier to grow than holly. Gives a similar look.

Wide spread scale problem on low ground cover Euyonumus. Must keep spraying just when eggs hatch but before the shell is formed. Usually best to get rid of the plant.

Astilbe must be wet in order to flower. A trick that can be used is to place a plastic grocery bag in ground with some holes in it to retard the water drainage. All labeling is for a 10 year growth period. Evergreens keep growing past the 10 years.

We have members that have fragrance allergies. Please refrain from wearing cologne or perfumes to our meetings.