



Naperville Community Gardeners

March 2010

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

From the President

Greetings to all from Arizona! Even in the desert we think of spring. It will be my first one living here. Visiting last year I had the opportunity to see the Dale Chihuly Glass Exhibit in the Desert Botanical Garden:

<http://www.chihuly.com/installations/DesertBotanicalGarden/DesertBotanicalGarden001.html>

His pieces are beautiful blown glass in grand scale throughout the grounds with natural blooming vegetation all around. It was wonderful and I was hooked.

We bought a home last fall and this year I am splitting my time between Illinois and Arizona. My heart is still in Illinois with my resting garden but the blooms on the cactus have a tug. It's like getting a shot of spring just a little earlier than in former years.

With spring just around the corner members will be thinking about their own gardens and what they can donate to the Garden Club's plant sale in May. The plant sale is the Club's only major fundraiser so we need help from all members either through resources (plants) or time (set up or working the day of sale) or both. The success of the sale hinges on participation. Volunteer, and make this our best sale ever! I'll be thinking of you all as my cacti bloom in my front courtyard.

*-Patti Thompson
President*

Next Meeting

Monday, March 1, 2010

7 p.m.

Vegetable Garden Design - Beyond the Straight and Narrow

Learn ways to "think outside the box" when creating a vegetable garden. The vegetable garden of the last century was quite large and traditionally utilitarian. Today's garden is reduced in size and more often than not, is an integral part of the home landscape. Various elements that make a garden appealing as well as productive will be discussed.

Our guest speaker Bill Jegen is a Master Gardener in the University of Illinois Extension. Bill has been gardening for over 30 years and his areas of expertise include Dahlias and Vegetable Production Agriculture.

Don't forget that our meetings have moved to Knox Presbyterian Church, 1105 Catalpa Lane, Naperville. Please enter at the east main entrance and follow the long hallway to the Fellowship Hall (large room to the left of the coffee bar).

Upcoming Programs

April 5: The Organic Gardener by Erin Tuttle

May 3: The "Honey Dew" - Keeping Bees Here In The Midwest by Laura Andersen

February Minutes - Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2010

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. Patti Thompson, President, welcomed members and guests. Rod Beary motioned to approve the January Meeting minutes, Betty Ference seconded. Peter Klassen gave a Treasurer's report for Tom Campbell in absentia. Peter Klassen motioned to approve the 2010 Budget, Barbara Jones second.

Announcements:

- **Feb 20** – 8:30 – noon – “Invite Nature to Your Yard” – sponsored by the Wild Ones at Naperville City Hall. Announced by Carolyn Finzer. See <http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/dupage/> for more information.
- **Horticulture Career Fair:** Tomorrow, Feb 2nd from 2:00 – 6:00 pm at COD in the Horticulture Dept. Announced by Carolyn Finzer.
- **DuPage Extension House Tour on Saturday June 26th.** Ron Ory's house is on this tour. Club members are welcome to attend.
- **Dues:** - Betty Ference, Membership is collecting dues of \$15.00. She also has tee-shirts of different sizes/styles.
- **Newsletter:** – Laurel LaLonde checked with members how the newsletter format worked out for people. Let her know if you have any problems.
- **Flower/Garden Show Guide** – Laurel LaLonde asked for members to submit garden photos (electronic format only) to be used for this year's show guide cover. She wants this by the end of June.
- **Plant Sale** – contact Logan Wasson if you have any suggestions for particular plants you think we should sell at the plant sale.

Old Business:

- **Chairpeople:** Chairpeople are still needed for Mini-Show, Photography and Riverwalk Garden, Garden Plot Judging.
- **Picnic** – Saturday, July 17th. We already have volunteers for garden tours and a picnic host.
- **Mini-Show:** since we don't have a chairperson yet, those who bring in items can present them. Carolyn Finzer brought in a guilded tropical leaf and a burgundy calla lily that were used as centerpieces at a recent event at Meson Sabika. She also had several gardening related articles.

Adjourn: JoAnn Monge motioned to adjourn the meeting. Judy Kanarek 2nd.

Speaker: Arup Bhuyan introduced our speaker, Mike Crews from Mike Crews Photography, www.crewsphotography.com speaking on Landscape and Garden Photography. (Check out his web page for more beautiful images)

Light: Mike says that one of his early inspirations with photography was learning about light and shadows. The scenery is radically altered by (and often greatly enhanced) by interesting light and shadows. So photographing the same scene in different light can yield dramatically different results. The Lincoln Conservatory is a really great place to take photos. Most of the light is on the subject, highlighting it. Your eye immediately goes to the brightest spot in your photograph. Winter is a beautiful opportunity to take great photos. Filtered sun on overcast days provides ideal lighting conditions – if it's very sunny out, the contrast is too great. Try to keep the sun at right angles to your composition so you get highlights and nice shadows. The worst position to shoot is with the sun behind you. If the light is in front of you – use your hand or something to cast a shadow across your lens. It'll prevent the whole image from being totally washed out. Eliminate the sky if you are trying to shoot something on the ground, so your eye isn't drawn first to the sky. Once the sun goes down, you can take great photos for about 20 minutes after sundown – you get great color in the sky.

Architecture: Incorporate architecture/hardscape into your landscape photos, to provide additional interest. Add some additional

Continued on page 3

Due to fragrance allergies, your “fragrance free” attendance at meetings and club events is greatly appreciated.

lights to highlight some details in the architecture (not usually the flash from your camera.). Wetting down stones, pavers, pathways can provide nice colors. Think about wetting the mulch in garden beds a little because it makes the contrast of the plant materials nicer. Dry mulch can look very dull.

Composition: If you're going to shoot a single flower – consider shooting it vertically, instead of horizontally. Use a large aperture (f3.5) on an SLR camera or with a digital camera, use a portraiture setting which minimizes the depth of field! This makes the subject in focus and the background deliberately fuzzy. Instead of centering the subject, it appears more dynamic if you off-center the subject. Use the rule of thirds and put your focus of attention into one of the squares. Selective focus – good for individual flowers. Allow a route for the eye to follow through the photograph (like a physical path, or ray of light) - don't block it. Don't be afraid to crop your photo a little bit – you might remove some “clutter” or other distracting elements, provide a “frame” etc. Try the same shot a little closer in, or a little farther out. Don't be afraid to get down at ground level, or more out of your normal position, on a ladder shooting down.

Color: contrasting colors makes a really dynamic photo. Using opposite colors in your photo makes it more interesting. Colors shot in the shade are much more saturated.

Processing your images: Mike's photos are done both with film and digital cameras. He says that most professional photography today is done with digital equipment. Good to invest in processing your images, like with Photoshop. Think about adjusting your brightness, contrast, sharpness, color saturation. Canon and Nikon make the best digital cameras in Mike's opinion. A Canon 50D is a great “entry-level” camera.

Mike's Quick Tips for Garden and Landscape Photography:

- Try to shoot early or late in the day (avoid mid-day)
- Muted (soft) sunlight renders best light
- With bright sunshine, try to keep sun direction at right angles to composition
- Level the horizon line
- Physically clean up area within composition before shooting
- Use rule of thirds to compose the photo rather than centering
- Try to provide a “path” for the viewer's eye to follow through the composition
- Darken (wet) the soil or pavers for better contrast
- Try selective focus (primary item in focus with background blurred)
- Eliminate sky unless it is an integral part of composition
- Move in for close-ups

- Process captured images for brightness, color saturation, contrast and sharpness
- Crop images as needed

HAVE FUN AND EXPERIMENT!!!

Naperville Community Gardeners

Executive Board

President	Patti Thompson
Vice-President	Arup Bhuyan
Secretary	Barbara Jones
Treasurer	Tom Campbell
Past President	Robert Elvert

Committee Chairs

Benton Street Post Office	Carolyn Finzer
Gardening Workshops	Ron Ory
Garden Plant-A-Row	Ben Calvert
.....	Tom Campbell
Garden Plot Judging	OPEN
High School Liaisons	
District 203	Kris Siuciak
District 204	Wanda Wohead
Naper Settlement	Eleanor Holt
Naper Settlement Rose Garden	Brian Bell
River Walk Clean Up	Linda Thompson
River Walk Gardens	Ben Calvert
Flower and Garden Show	Tom Campbell
Harvest Banquet	Esther Prock
Historian	Carolyn Finzer
Membership	Betty Ference
Meeting Refreshments	Linda Thompson
Mini Show	OPEN
Newsletter	Laurel LaLonde
Newsletter Distribution	Mary Wright
Photography	Ron Ory
Picnic	Laurel LaLonde
Publicity	Laurel LaLonde
Programs	Arup Bhuyan
Show Directory	Laurel LaLonde
Special Correspondence	Carolyn Finzer
Website	Peter Klassen

The deadline for the April newsletter is March 15th.

2009 Spring Plant Sale Review

Costs:

<u>Combined</u>	
Tent Permit	\$170
Tables	\$306
Copy services	
(donation)	\$41
MailCards/Postage(est.)	\$200
TOTAL shared	\$717

Return:

<u>Members' Plants</u>	
Shared costs	\$215.08
Reimbursements	\$88.01
Total	\$303.09
Return	\$2,921.78

Members' Plants
Reimbursements **\$ 88.01**

Purchased Plants

Shared costs	\$501.85
Plant purchased	\$6,374.20
Total	\$6,876.05
Return	\$759.20

<u>Purchased Plants</u>	
Lizzy's	\$1,024.00
Schaefer	\$3,923.10
Shaddy Hill	\$1,427.10
TOTAL purchased	\$ 6,374.20

Combined Return \$3,680.98

Sales:

Deposits	\$10,896.83
Sales slips	\$10,870.12
Pink slip sales	\$1,147.00

Attendance:

7:30 - 8:00	42
8:01 - 8:30	40
8:31 - 9:00	1
9:01 - 9:30	15
9:31 - 10:00	26
10:01 - 10:30	20
10:31 - 11:00	33
11:01 - 11:30	11
11:31 - 12:00	16
12:01 - 12:30	6
Pink slip	56
No time stamp	130
TOTAL	396

% Sales % Closeout

Members Plants	\$3,224.87	30%	11%
Flats	\$2,181.50	20%	24%
Pots	\$3,131.25	29%	26%
Vegetables	\$1,500.75	14%	28%
Baskets	\$821.75	8%	11%
TOTAL purchases	\$7,635.25	70%	89%

Post Cards:

Addresses in '08 file	547
Cards Returned for \$2	45
Returning residents	86
New to mailing list	69
Addresses in '09 file	609