



Naperville Community Gardeners

May 2010

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

30th Annual Plant Sale May 8th

Things to do for the plant sale:

- Divide your perennials and pot them up for the Members' Plants at the sale. Need pots? Contact Linda Allison.
- Seed starters - don't forget to harden your plants off before the sale.
- Provide information about number of plants, variety, color, bloom time, sun/shade/water requirements, etc. on the form that will arrive electronically or get a paper copy at the May meeting. Send form to Linda Allison. A plant label will be waiting for you when you deliver your plants to the sale on Friday, May 7th.
- Sign up for a work shift for either set-up on Friday or the sale on Saturday. All members are required to work a shift.
- Dig out your name tag and be sure to wear it to the sale. Can't find it? Contact Laurel LaLonde by April 28th and she will bring replacement name tags to the May meeting.
- Volunteer to have a "sleep over" at the sale location on Friday night to keep an eye on the plants.

Next Meeting

Monday, May 3, 2010
7 p.m.

The "Honey Dew" Keeping Bees Here in the Midwest by Laura Andersen

These workers do the tasks without you asking or having to make a list. Learn the process of keeping bees in the Midwest. See the components of a bee hive and learn about the jobs bees perform in and out the hive. You provide the garden, they help enhance it. Learn what you can do to help make them more efficient. Taste a sampling of varietal honeys and wonder what the honey made from your garden would taste like.

Andersen has been keeping bees at Garfield Farm, La Fox, IL and the University of Illinois research fields, St. Charles, IL for the last 11 years. She has Master Gardener certifications for Florida and Illinois, and many interests and hobbies.

Upcoming Events

- May 3: Meeting & Program: *The "Honey Dew" Keeping Bees Here in the Midwest*
May 8: 30th Annual Plant Sale
June 7: Meeting & Program: *Organic Farming in Naperville*
July 17: Garden Tours & Picnic
August 2: Meeting & Program: *I've Removed the Buckthorn and Honeysuckle - Now What Do I Do? Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*
August 21: 30th Annual Flower & Garden Show

April Minutes -

Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, April 5, 2010

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm. Arup Bhuyan, Vice -President, welcomed members and guests. Linda Thompson motioned to approve the January Meeting minutes, Tom Campbell seconded. Tom Campbell gave a Treasurer's report. Bob Elvert motioned to approve the 2010 Budget, Barbara Jones second.

Announcements:

- **Riverwalk Cleanup:** Linda Thompson – The Riverwalk Cleanup will be on Saturday, April 17th. Meet at the west end of the Riverwalk, by the pavillon at 8:00 am. Bring tools labeled with your name. You might want to bring a mask because sometimes the mulch is very dusty.
- **Membership:** Barbara Jones for Betty Ference: **Reminder that membership dues are due!**
- **Gardening Workshops:** Barbara Jones for Ron Ory – The Gardening Workshops were very well attended. Ron and Wanda Wohead gave great presentations at the March 24 workshop.
- **RibFest** – Our club was contacted by RibFest to see if anyone from the club is interested in volunteering. Arup Bhuyan has the info if there is any interest.
- **Newsletter** – Laurel LaLonde – Email newsletter will now come from info@napervillecommunitygardeners.org so look for that in your inbox!

Old Business:

- **Plant Sale – Logan Wasson: Plant Sale is May 8th at the Garden Plots. Setup is on Friday evening May 7th.** We need a volunteer to stay with the plants overnight.
- **Member's Plants** – Linda Allison: Contact her if you have plants to donate or if you want to join either of her committees:
 - Pricing Committee** – meet to decide on pricing April 22nd and Friday May 7th
 - Label Making Committee** – meet 6-9 pm on Wed, May 5th at Lindas.
- **Liability Insurance – Laurel LaLonde** – We have to have insurance for the plant sale. Cost is \$170. The minimum policy to cover everything is \$500 for all of our events including our picnic, meetings etc. Janice Gricus motioned to purchase the insurance. Carolyn Finzer 2nd. Motion passed.

Mini-Show: Barbara Jones presented the mini-show. Rosemary Stelter brought in a bouquet of Hellebores, Daffodils, and Hyacinth. Jan Gricus brought in Hellebore flowers and Lipstick Plant. Barbara Jones brought in a small bouquet of spring ephemerals. Frida Haller brought in daffodils and hellebores. Randy Scheib brought in a bloodroot plant. Laurel LaLonde brought in an impatiens plant that she overwintered in her basement.

Adjourn: Bob Elvert motioned to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Jones 2nd.

- **Speaker:** Arup Bhuyan introduced our speaker, Erin Tuttle who spoke to us about Organic Gardening. Erin is a certified Naturalist and Environmental Educator for 12 years. Erin works at the Conservation Foundation, though she is not representing them tonight.

Principle of Organic Gardening: looks at the garden as an overall system – allowing the plants, soil life, insects etc to interact with each other, thereby preventing problems before they start.

The Garden as an Ecosystem. Models natural systems. Diversity promotes resistance to pests and diseases. Cycles of growth and decay to ensure soil quality. An organic gardening system is kept in balance. Problems are prevented by keeping plants in top-notch health, cultivating organically active soil. Encouraging a diverse community of predators to keep the pests in check. Trying to cultivate your garden (mimic) as a MATURE ecosystem. We keep our gardens in an immature state by disturbing it. A Mature ecosystem is a much more balanced system. Weeds are the plants that move in to try to heal a disturbed landscape. Purslane,

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

creeping charlie, dandelions, crabgrass, Queen Anne’s Lace, bindweed, thistle, burdock – these plants have a deep taproot. The deep taproot breaks up a disturbed nutrient poor soil. Creeping charlie, bindweed – these plants have adapted to spread out to cover nutrient poor soil. Clover and other legumes put nitrogen back into the soil. “Gaia’s Garden” by Toby Hemenway, is a good book about Permaculture. So if you can enhance the quality of your soil, these weeds won’t grow there.

Cultivating Living Soil: The Soil Food Web. Mimic the soil structure of natural systems. (Putting logs in your garden – slowly decompose, bring good insect life).

Synthetic Fertilizers vs Living Soil. Synthetic fertilizers creates a surplus of mineral nutrients – like a burst of junk food. The soil life binges on all of the “junk food” and actually creates a depletion of a balanced organisms. Carbon supplies are depleted and soil life starves and dies. Ample soil life boosts soil structure and plant health. A diverse soil food web holds diseases in check. Organic Fertilizers are made from plant/animal sources and rock powders. Nutrients are more slowly release and build soil structure. Dry fertilizers build soil structure and long-term nutrition. Liquid fertilizers provide a quick but nourishing boost. Gardens Alive is a good source of organic fertilizers.

Tilling vs No-Till

Tilling flushes the soil with fresh air and breaks up soil clumps, thereby increases the surface area. Soil structure is lost and weed seeds are introduced. This may help for the first year or two but over time, it actually depletes the soil of nutrients. No-till: plant roots and worms actually break up the soil and make for a healthier soil.

Composting:

On the Spot Composting – less work – put leaves on raised garden beds in the fall.

Food scraps – can be buried in “Trudi pits.”

Photos for the Flower & Garden Show Guide

Don’t forget to think about photos for the cover of the Flower & Garden Show guide. This is our 30th Annual Flower & Garden Show!! Let’s have one or more really nice photos on our cover. Photos should be submitted to Laurel LaLonde at info@napervillecommunitygardeners.org by June 30th. Photos must be in .jpg format and be sure to take them in a high quality mode, not the email quality setting.

Naperville Community Gardeners

Executive Board

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

Committee Chairs

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

**Newsletter deadline
is the 15th of the
month.**

Garden Tours & Picnic Saturday, July 17

We have five gardens on the tour this year! Four of them are in very close proximity so you won't be spending much time traveling this year. Our hosts will be:

Tom Campbell
Barbara Jones
Linda Thompson
Patti Thompson
Bob Elvert - picnic host

The tours will begin at 9 a.m. and the picnic follows the last tour at about 12:30 p.m.

The club will provide grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, cold drinks and napkins. You will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert, lawn chairs, and your own plate & silverware.

Details and RSVP information in the June newsletter.

Refreshments

Thank you to Carolyn Finzer and Wanda Wohead for the wonderful refreshments at the April meeting.

The schedule for refreshments is:

May	Judy Kanarek & Linda Allison
June	Ben Calvert
August	Rose Mary Stelter
September	Jan Gricus & JoAnn Monge
October	Patti Thompson

Welcome to our new members:

Marie Riley
Cindy Dewulf-Shipley
Angel Whitt

Gardeners Preparing For The Plant Sale

Thanks to Bea McGovern who agreed to be included in a publicity article for the Plant Sale. I enjoyed learning that Bea has been working on her garden since 1968 and she has over 400 hosta varieties. She will be dividing some of her hostas and donating them to the Plant Sale.



Thanks also to Wanda Wohead who shared the story of the "Yugo" heirloom tomato she is growing for the sale. The seeds were given to Wanda by a student whose grandfather brought them with him from Yugoslavia when he came to the USA in WWII. The Yugo is one of Wanda's favorites.

Plan to come early for some of these great plants!

If you see the article in one of the papers, please bring a copy to the meeting.

-Laurel LaLonde