



Naperville Community Gardeners

February 2010

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

From the President

Welcome to the year 2010! The club has started out January's meeting with a cheerful display of lovely orchids provided by Don White of Anything Orchids thanks to our new vice-president/program chairman, Arup Bhuyan.

Hope springs eternal as I start getting my mail carriers back breaking number of garden catalogs. Looking on the internet is just not the same as curling up in a comfy chair with a hot cup of coffee and dreaming of all the possibilities of the newest and greatest varieties. Now if I can only figure out how to squeeze another plant in and hopefully not break the bank I'll be set. Budgeting can be so hard and speaking of budgeting, please be prepared to vote on the printed budget and our clubs by-laws. The club has a small amount of business to take care of before we see the beautiful photos of Mike Crews, our February speaker.

*-Patti Thompson
President*

Next Meeting

**Monday, February 1, 2010
7 p.m.**

*Get Inspired To Take Fabulous Photos
of Flowers & Landscapes*

Speaker: Mike Crews of Crews Photography

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).

Carpools: If anyone wants to find folks to carpool with to the meetings, please contact Barbara Jones.

Seed Starters: Are you interested in learning how to grow plants from seed? We have a group of about a dozen members who meet every few weeks in the winter/spring to exchange ideas/info/seeds. Many of these plants will be sold at our spring plant sale. Contact Barbara Jones if you're interested.

Membership: Please let Betty Ference (Membership) know if you have changes to be made to your address, phone # or email address, so you will continue to receive the newsletter.

Mark your calendar!

Annual Plant Sale - Saturday, May 8
Garden Tour and Picnic - Saturday, July 17th
Flower & Garden Show - Saturday, August 21

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

Thanks to the following businesses who donated door prizes for the Harvest Banquet:

Quigley's Irish Pub	Planters' Palette
Home Landscape	Sid's Greenhouse &
The Growing Place	Garden Center
Lizzie's Garden	Wannemaker's
Eggspereience	Tangerine Cafe
Egg Harbor	

GARDENING WORKSHOP

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.

Location: Sportsman's Park - Clubhouse
 Limit: Min. 5/ Max. 35
 Fee: Free Courses

CODE	AGE	DAY	TIME
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Regular Gardening Workshop with Ron Ory

Mar. 10

83338 16&cup Wed 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

Regular Gardening Workshop with Ron Ory

Mar. 24

83339 16&cup Wed 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

Organic Workshop Cold Plants with Vicki Nowicki

Mar. 17

83340 16&cup Wed 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

Organic Workshop Hot Weather Plants with Vicki Nowicki

Apr. 7

83341 16&cup Wed 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

*These workshops are available through the
 Naperville Park District.*

**The deadline for the March
 newsletter is February 15th.**

January Minutes

Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2010

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm. Patti Thompson, President, welcomed members and several guests. Linda Thompson made a motion to elect Arup Bhuyan for Vice President for 2010, Betty Ference 2nd. Meeting minutes will be tabled for next month because they weren't sent out yet. Tom Campbell gave a Treasurer's report. (FYI to club members - checks for the Harvest Banquet have not been cashed yet - they will be.) Budget will be voted on at the February meeting. Peter Klassen motioned to re-approve the By-Laws. Rod Beary 2nd.

Announcements:

- Laurel LaLonde said she will be doing the newsletter. If you have anything to submit for the newsletter, email Laurel. The deadline is the 15th of the month for newsletter submits. Send it as a Microsoft Word attachment of .doc type- do not type it directly into the email.
- Linda Thompson has the sign up sheet for refreshments for upcoming minutes. See her to sign up. Membership dues are due to Betty Ference (Membership) or Tom Campbell (Treasurer). Existing members owe \$15, new members owe \$20.

Old Business:

- **Chairpeople:** Chairpeople are still needed for Mini-Show, Photography, Riverwalk Garden, and Garden Plot Judging committees. Contact Patti Thompson if you are interested or want more information.
- **Plant a Row for the Hungry** - We don't know if we will have a garden plot next year or not, due to the Park District's plans to do away with some of the garden plots.
- **Meeting location:** Reminder: Meetings are now at the Knox Presbyterian Church on Gartner Rd (just west of Washington St). In exchange for the free meeting space, we will do some gardening for them in the spring.
- **Seed Starters:** If you are interested in joining the Seed Starters group, contact Barbara Jones.
- **New Business: None**

Mini-Show: Laurel LaLonde brought in watercress that she has been growing in her basement under grow lights. Randy Scheib brought in a large Jade plant.

Adjourn: Barbara Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. Judy Kanarek 2nd.

Speaker: Arup Bhuyan introduced our speaker, Don White, from Anything Orchids in Frankfurt, IL. (<http://anythingorchids.com/>) 815-469-3774. Don brought in LOTS of gorgeous orchids in flower. Don says orchids are actually pretty hardy - you can transport them in the winter if you warm up your car and cover the orchids. Don likes the fragrant orchids but most of them are only fragrant during the day. He has been raising orchids for 27 years and is a member of the Batavia Orchid Society (www.bataviaorchidsociety.org) They have a big orchid show and sale at the DuPage County Fairgrounds on 2015 Manchester Rd in Wheaton, on Sat/Sun Feb 20-21. Orchids flower for a much longer

Continued on page 4

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

time than other flowers. In general, the bigger the bloom, the shorter the bloom time. Big ones like catalayas bloom for about 2 weeks. The medium size flowers bloom for about 2 months, sometimes twice a year, but the second flowering can be smaller. The smaller ones bloom for 2-6 months, sometimes twice a year.

Watering/Fertilizing: Orchids actually like to be neglected - it's better to check them maybe once a week, just lift them to see if they are light and need to be watered. Small pots get watered maybe once a week, bigger ones, maybe every other week. Dendrobium and phalaenopsis orchids are readily available in stores. It's easiest to buy a mature plant because small baby plants might take a number of years before they flower. To water an orchid, always water from the top and not from the bottom. If it isn't draining well, you should repot it - the water should run freely through the pot. They are heavy feeders - it is good to keep a very weak water soluble fertilizer solution to water them with, year round. You want a high nitrogen fertilizer (like 30-10-10) or a bloom booster (high middle number). Water the plant with warm water - not cold water. Then water them with a little fertilizer. Never water them on top of the foliage where they water could puddle and cause crown rot - water them around the edges, in the morning.

Light/Temperature: While they are blooming, they don't need much light at all, and they don't need to be pollinated to bloom. When they are not blooming, they need lots of light. It's good to take them outside for the summer, in the shade. From November - Valentines Day, give them lots of direct sunlight like in a south or west window indoors. If the lights are really dark, then all the energy of the plant is going into the leaves. If it gets lots of light, the leaves will be lighter and the energy will go to the flower growth. Most of the plants bloom from new growth which will emerge from the base of the plant. If you only have an east/

north window, the phalaenopsis and lady slippers can be grown there. New high efficiency windows can screen a lot of the light that plants need so phalaenopsis and lady slippers will benefit from grow lights. Orchids do like to get cool at night (like 60), like near a window. The phalaenopsis like to get temperatures in the 50s at night, which helps trigger the flowering.

Insects/Fungus: It's good to keep the air moving around the plants but be careful with using ceiling fans as they don't want hot blasts of air. It's good to keep a small oscillating fan on the plants to prevent fungus and bugs. Watch out for scale, mealy bugs and whiteflies. Fill a small spray bottle with rubbing alcohol (70%) which you can spray on the plants to kill the bugs. This doesn't kill the eggs though. You can use a spray of 2 tsp vegetable oil mixed with 2 tsp liquid detergent - twice a week for a month, to kill the bugs.

Repotting: Phalaenopsis and lady slippers should be repotted every year. When you repot, clean as much of the material around the roots as possible so you just have the roots. Using a sterilized scissors, prune out any old, mushy growth and just keep the new growth/roots. It won't necessarily need a bigger size pot, a smaller pot is actually better than a bigger pot. Only use orchid mix, never soil. Bark mix is best and you can get the mix wet before you repot. If there is a plug of moss in with the roots, you can remove this as it will help keep from over watering them. Desenex foot cream is good for fungus on leaves. Don doesn't recommend misting them because this can cause crown rot, and the blooms to not last as long.

Summary: The most important things to remember is to not overwater them, and to give them lots of light.



Gardening tasks to do in February

Start seeds indoors. Cool-season crops can be started early in the month, warm-season crops can be started toward the end of the month.

Direct sow radish and lettuce seeds late in the month.

2010 Budget

	2006 ACTUAL	2007 ACTUAL	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL (to date)	2010 BUDGET (PROPOSED)	VARIANCE from 2009 BUDGET
REVENUES						
01 01 Members Dues	\$1,110.00	\$1,045.00	\$975.00	\$975.00	\$990.00	\$0.00
01 02 Member Nametags			\$40.00	\$65.00	\$40.00	\$0.00
01 03 Members Banquet Tickets	\$770.00	\$690.00	\$912.00	\$892.66	\$900.00	\$0.00
01 04 Members T-Shirt Sales	\$98.00	\$36.00	\$0.00	\$93.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
SUB-TOTAL MEMBERS REVENUE	\$1,978.00	\$1,751.00	\$1,927.00	\$2,025.66	\$2,030.00	\$0.00
01 05 Plant Sale: Vendors	\$4,598.02	\$8,914.60	\$13,136.47	\$10,896.83	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
01 06 Plant Sale: Members	\$2,784.03	\$3,097.50	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	-\$500.00
01 07 Misc. Revenues	\$41.64	\$74.45	\$1,515.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
01 08 Interest	\$48.22	\$40.86	\$35.89	\$51.89	\$50.00	\$10.00
SUB-TOTAL FUND-RAISING/MISC.	\$7,471.91	\$12,121.41	\$14,752.36	\$10,948.72	\$12,100.00	-\$440.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,449.91	\$13,872.41	\$16,679.36	\$12,974.38	\$14,130.00	-\$440.00
EXPENSES						
02 01 Members Picnic	\$180.09	\$132.30	\$135.58	\$12.20	\$150.00	\$0.00
02 02 Members Banquet	\$1,022.36	\$880.34	\$1,082.12	\$0.00	\$1,150.00	\$0.00
02 03 Members Name Tags	\$32.80	\$54.00	\$62.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00
02 04 Members Recognition Fund	\$75.34	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$25.00
02 05 Members T-Shirts	\$112.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105.74	\$100.00	\$0.00
SUB-TOTAL MEMBERS BENEFITS	\$1,423.04	\$1,066.64	\$1,329.70	\$117.94	\$1,515.00	\$25.00
02 06 Bus Trip	\$0.00	\$234.50	\$1,952.40	\$0.00	\$250.00	-\$100.00
02 07 Bank Charges	\$9.00	\$0.00	\$9.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
02 08 Club Maintenance Costs	\$70.00	\$62.00	\$56.00	\$80.93	\$80.00	\$15.00
02 09 Door Prizes/Mini Show	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$0.00
02 10 Refreshments	\$41.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
02 11 Misc. Expenses	\$887.11	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
02 12 Newsletter	\$49.75	\$39.00	\$8.20	\$42.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
02 13 Program Speakers	\$700.82	\$880.00	\$700.00	\$675.00	\$1,100.00	-\$100.00
02 14 Publicity				\$0.00	\$40.00	-\$60.00
02 15 Website	\$128.23	\$94.30	\$179.75	\$40.93	\$180.00	\$80.00
02 16 Historian/Photo Supplies	\$6.29	\$0.00	\$5.90	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
02 17 Storage unit	\$599.40	\$609.40	\$602.59	\$659.40	\$660.00	\$0.00
02 18 Flower & Garden Show	\$797.78	\$1,310.65	\$1,031.01	\$1,233.28	\$900.00	-\$300.00
SUB-TOTAL CLUB ACTIVITIES	\$1,862.43	\$3,229.85	\$3,768.84	\$1,593.26	\$3,365.00	-\$465.00
02 19 Donations	\$2,500.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00
02 20 Donation to Riverwalk	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
SUB-TOTAL DONATIONS	\$3,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$0.00
02 21 Plant Sale: Vendors	\$4,416.68	\$6,883.12	\$7,300.24	\$6,815.75	\$7,000.00	\$0.00
02 22 Plant Sale: Members	\$72.95	\$427.04	\$575.05	\$539.27	\$500.00	\$0.00
SUB-TOTAL FUNDRAISERS	\$4,489.63	\$7,310.16	\$7,875.29	\$7,355.02	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,602.88	\$13,356.65	\$15,254.84	\$12,049.50	\$14,130.00	-\$440.00
NET INCOME (LOSS)	-\$2,152.97	\$515.76	\$1,424.52	\$924.88	\$0.00	\$0.00

2005 End of Year Balance = \$12,282.05

2006 End of Year Balance = \$10,129.08

2007 End of Year Balance = \$10,768.88

2008 End of Year Balance = \$12,193.40

2009 End of Year Balance = \$12,374.42