



Naperville Community Gardeners

Nancy Herron, Editor
Milly Kay Ginocchio, Distribution Chief

March 2005
Established 1980

Next Meeting

March 7, 2005, 7 p.m.
John Greene Realty
1311 S. Highway 59, Naperville

Speaker: Jeff Gibson of Ball Seed Company

Topic: New Annuals and Perennials for Today's Gardens



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Once again this year, the news media has relied upon a groundhog to let them know that six more weeks of winter would be upon us. Although that is just as accurate a way of predicting weather six weeks out as any other, I prefer to let nature give me the signs. Small green shoots rising from my flowerbeds are one sign that spring is nearing. I noticed the shoots at the beginning of February just after the latest snows melted. What I am seeing first are the shoots of narcissus.

My narcissuses come from a variety of sources; most were purchased over the years from various places. My favorites however, are those that I removed a few years ago from the family farm. The flowers had been there for a long time, my grandfather remembers them from when he was young. I was able to save them along with lilies and peonies before the property was sold to expand an industrial park. Since the farm was in southern Indiana, I was worried that the move to a cooler climate may affect the plants that had enjoyed milder winters for such a long time (not to mention the long ride in the trunk of a car). They seem to have taken to their new surroundings wonderfully. Although they are not too spectacular when compared with newer varieties that are sold, I do enjoy having plants with stories to tell. Now each year as I watch the shoots rise from the earth I am reminded of a farm that is no longer there.

Speaking of reminders, dues should be paid by April and please sign up for the committee of your choice. We currently still have openings for the Summer Picnic, not only for a chairperson, but for a host as well. We are also looking for someone who would like to take over the job of posting information on our side of the kiosk located at the community garden plots entrance. Last year, club member Deb McCullough posted gardening information for the County Extension Service on one side, and Eleanor Holt, with an assist from Carolyn Finzer, took care of the club's side. If you would be interested in posting information about club activities, see Eleanor. I am sure

2005 Officers

President	Tom Campbell
V. President	Mary Wright
Secretary	JoAnn Monge
Treasurer	Ron Ory

BE SURE TO FIND:

Page 2	Speaker information
Page 3	Minutes from February meeting
Page 4	Committee Information

that she will provide support to anyone who would like to take on the task.

The plant sale is only two months away! Pam Westfall and Logan Wasson are hard at work organizing subcommittees, making lists and ordering plants. It is time for all of us to plan what we will be donating from our own gardens. Remember that donated plants represent pure profit for the club and buyers love to get plants that have come from our yards. Anita Mraz will be asking everyone to list the type and quantity of plants that they intend to have for the sale at the March meeting.

Also for the March meeting, Jeff Gibson from Ball Seed will be back again to let us know what we will be seeing at garden centers this year. So don't miss this meeting if you want to know what the hot plants will be for 2005. I am sure he will also be giving us an update on the display gardens at Ball Seed.

Happy Gardening,
Tom Campbell, President

Upcoming community projects

1) RIVERWALK CLEANUP. The annual Riverwalk Cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, March 26th, from 8:30 am till ? (about 11:30 or the end of the mulch supply). The Naperville Community Gardeners have a garden on the East Extension of the Riverwalk and every year we weed and mulch that area and as far as our springtime muscles will allow. It's great exercise--especially for those of us still trying to complete our Lenten penance (it's the Saturday before Easter). For those who can make it, please assemble with rake and shovel near the club's garden. Please dress according to the weather.

2) GARDENING WORKSHOP. On page 60 of the park district's Spring program guide, you'll find the announcement for the tradition Gardening Workshop. Originally designed to meet first-time garden plot users, this free seminar has seen an increased interest in home landscaping issues. For the last couple years,

the interest has been so great that the second session has been added. The sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, April 12th from 7 to 9 pm at the Barn (Room C); and for Tuesday, April 26th from 7 to 9 pm at Sportsman's Clubhouse. There is time for your special topic to be presented, provided you notify me in advance so we'll be adequately prepared. If you would simply like to be one of our panel of "experts" to answer questions, that would be great. Please let me know soonest of your interest in participating. (You can also sign up for the FREE course as part of the audience through the park district.) I hope to hear from many of you by the end of the month of your interest in either or both of these worthwhile community projects.

:-) Ron Ory
E-mail: fotogolfguy@att.net

March Speaker

The Naperville Community Gardeners will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 7, at John Greene Realty, Highway 59 and 83rd Street. The speaker will be Jeff Gibson, Marketing Manager at Ball Horticultural Company. His topic is "New Annuals and Perennials for Today's Gardens." The program will include a slide presentation showing new plants which will be available in local garden centers this spring. Jeff Gibson will also give suggestions about planting and caring for these plants.

Non-members are invited to attend the meeting. There is no charge.

Naperville Community Gardeners minutes for February 7, 2005

President Tom Campbell called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. A motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting as written was made by Mary Wright and seconded by Eleanor Holt. The motion carried.

Ron Ory gave the treasurer's report. Liz Kelman motioned to approve the report and Mary Wright seconded. The motion carried.

Announcements: Betty Ference is trying a new attendance system. She will have a roster for everyone to check off his/her name. We would like to know the activity level of our members as well as know how many people are in the room so we comply with fire regulations.

Members in print: Betty Earl has two articles in the current issue (#61) of Small Gardens Magazine, "Creating a Hidden Oasis" and "Jewel Box Garden". The text and photography is by Betty Earl. She also has an article in the current issue (2005) of All-Seasons Garden Guide, "Irresistible Hydrangeas".

Website addresses: These websites have helpful information for gardening: <http://www.garden.org/regional/report/national> from National Gardening Association; <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/veg/> from Cornell University.

Ron Ory brought in an article he wrote on the Anza Trail he traveled on this past summer. We have received acknowledgement for the gift of \$250 from three of the five schools to whom we donated money (Benet, Naperville North and Waubonsie).

Mini-Show: Ben Calvert brought in Crown of Thorns of the cactus family. He bought it in Florida last fall. Nancy Carroll displayed several amaryllis and discussed the proper care for these bulbs. Eleanor Holt brought a miniature amaryllis. Beth Engle exhibited an unusual orchid: Ballara Marfitch 'Howard's Dream.'

Old Business: Pam Westfall will head the plant sale on May 14th. She will order the plants on consignment from Schaffers. The sign-up sheet for the job to do went around the room. It was suggested that we should have a holding area for the plants while people are shopping. The tent permit and insurance has been taken care of. Member plant sale will also take place at the plant sale. Some people may want to try container gardens for a change of pace.

Riverwalk cleanup is scheduled for March 26th at the east extension. We need to bring our own tools. They expect to mulch 7 to 10 dump truck loads.

Gardening workshops are April 12th at the Barn and 26th at the Sportsman Club House.

Club Committee Sign-up is going around again. Everyone needs to sign up for something.

Membership dues are due by the April meeting. Bob Elvert won the drawing for the Hosta "Striptease" donated by Eleanor Holt.

Special Events: Betty Earl is still working on the June trip to Peoria. It will probably take place June 18th or July 9th.

New Business: Peter Klassen has the website for the Naperville Community Gardeners available. Visit www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org. Carolyn Finzer wants some feedback on last year's banquet.

Barbara Jones brought refreshments.

Mary Carter Beary made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Betty Ference seconded, the motion passed. After the coffee break Pam Westfall introduced Connor Shaw of the Possibility Place Nursery. Mr. Shaw discussed slides taken of his home garden.

Betty Earl will be speaking at the **Chicago Flower & Garden Show** on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 11:00 AM. The title of her talk is "A Shady Love Affair: Knockout Plants that Light up the Shadows". Afterwards, she will be signing copies of her book - "In Search of Great Plants: An Insider's Guide to the Best Plants in the Midwest" at the Chicago Botanic Gardens booth. If you are at the show, stop by and say hello!

From GMPRO:

"The Chicago Botanic Garden evaluated 26 Anemone taxa for 6 years. Fall blooming anemones are clump-forming plants with dark-green leaves and 2 to 3-inch flowers on wiry stems. Flower colors range from pure white to dark pink and purple. Nearly half of the anemones received overall ratings of good or higher. The highest rated cultivars were Anemone x hybrida 'Andrea Atkinson', 'Max Vogel', and Serenade'.

* * * * *

"The Perennial Plant Assoc. members have selected *Dianthus gratianopolitanus* 'Feuerhexe' (Firewitch) as the 2006 Perennial Plant of the Year. A cheddar pink hybrid, plants produce clove-scented bright-magenta flowers and silver-blue foliage. Heaviest flowering is in spring, but plants will rebloom if deadheaded. Plants reach 7-8 inches tall and are hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-9."

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
EVALUATES ALCHEMILLA

"CBG evaluated 18 taxa of Alchemilla (lady's mantle) from spring 1995 through spring 2000. 12 of the taxa received 4-star ratings based on good health, robust plant habit, strong floral display and winter hardiness. Top performers:

A. alpina, *A. bulgarica*, *A. epipsala*, *A. erythropoda*, *A. glabellata*, *A. mollis* as well as 5 cultivars of *A. mollis* and *A. vulgaris*."

Betty

Planter's Palette Sponsors a Symposium

The annual symposium sponsored by Planter's Palette will be held on Friday, March 4, at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville. Entitled "Artistry in the Garden," the symposium will feature three nationally known garden authorities: Wayne Winterrowd, garden writer; James van Sweden, landscape architect; and Roy Diblik from Northwind Perennial Farm near Lake Geneva and an advocate of natural gardening.

For more information, call Planter's Palette: (630)293-1040.

The Morton Arboretum will have its Midwest Gardening Symposium
March 10 – 13

For more information, go to their website:
www.mortonarb.org or call 630-719-2468

Our web site: www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org

Our mailing address:

Naperville Community Gardeners
P.O. Box 9555
Naperville, IL 60567-9555

COMMITTEE CHAIRS ~ 2005

Annual Plant Sale ----- Pam Westfall
----- Logan Watson
Community Projects ----- Ron Ory
Gardening Workshops ----- Ron Ory
Garden Plots-Plant A Row- Ben Calvert
High School Liaison ---Wanda Wohead
Naper Settlement-----Brain Bell
Riverwalk Garden ----- Joe Pope
Flower & Garden Show ----- Anita Mraz
----- Beth Engle
Harvest Banquet ----- Mary Wright
----- Carolyn Finzer
Historian----- Liz Kelman
Library ----- Ben Calvert
Membership/T-shirts ----- Betty Ference
----- Anita Mraz
Meeting Refreshments Mary Carter Beary
----- Geri Niemann
Mini Show ----- Nancy Carroll
Newsletter ----- Nancy Herron
Distribution ----- Milly Kay Ginocchio
Photography ----- Ron Ory
Picnic -----
Coordinator -----
Programs ----- Mary Wright
Publicity----- Eleanor Holt
Shop & Share ----- Wanda Wohead
Show Directory----- Rosemary Holdredge

Special Events ----- Betty Earl
Web Site ----- Peter Klassen

Our web site has moved to:

www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org.

The move went well, and most of our old stuff arrived safely. In addition there are some new things to consider. We now have a "discussion area" where you may read what club members say, add your own postings, receive comments, and ask questions. It is just getting started, so add a note and let's share our knowledge, just as we do at our meetings.

Photo coverage will be expanding, although right now we need to dust off the pictures, and find some new ones.

The site is still somewhat under-construction so please excuse our dust. Let us know if there is something you'd like to see included, excluded, expanded, etc. Just click on the link at the bottom of each page or address your e-mail to:

webmaster@napervillecommunitygardeners.org

Submitted: Peter Klassen

Future Meetings / Events

April - An arborist from the City of Naperville

May – Frederick Miller will speak on How to Deal with Grubs in the Lawn.

June - Lynn Kalata - an expert on roses

July - picnic - no meeting

August - Ben Calvert will speak about the judging for the Flower and Garden show

September – Details to come

October - Jenny Lund will do hands on class involving topiary

November - no meeting - banquet