



# Naperville Community Gardeners

Kris Siuciak, Editor  
Mary Wright, Distribution

**April 2008**  
Established 1980

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

## Next Meeting

May 5, 2008

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

**Speaker:** A representative from Ball Seed Company

**Topic:** What's New for the Summer Garden

## 2008 Officers

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>President</b>      | <b>Rod Beary</b>      |
| <b>Vice President</b> | <b>Robert Elvert</b>  |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | <b>Barbara Jones</b>  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | <b>Tom Campbell</b>   |
| <b>Past President</b> | <b>Linda Thompson</b> |

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## From the President

Well, it was really nice to have all gardeners present and accounted for at our April meeting. Whether it was the weather or that some came back from living abroad, it was good to feel the vibrancy of all gardeners coming together to share their enthusiasm for a great hobby. No one epitomizes that enthusiasm more than our speaker, Al Kosnow, from the Midwest Fruit Explorers who showed us how to utilize every last inch of our garden space by planting with fruit trees.

May is the time for our plant sale. The plant sale is our only fund raiser so it supports our club activities and civic donations. This is the one activity that everyone in the club should participate in, if no other. Besides being very important to the club, it is a great way to get to know each other and share your knowledge with customers from the community. Refreshments have been promised. Don't forget, member plants are very important to us. If you need help to pot up specimens from your yard, contact Betty Ference and contact Betty if you are willing to help with this work. Although everyone gets involved with the plant sale, some have been meeting, planning, purchasing, designing, making etc. to assure that it is successful. Thank Mary Wright, Logan Wasson and committee members Linda Thompson, Beth

Engle, Peter Klassen, Betty Ference, Barbara Jones and Eleanor Holt for donating their time, energy and talents. One subject they have particularly worked on to improve is how member sales should work. We ask that everyone cooperate with the guidelines that have been established so equal opportunity is assured.

Victory Garden II. Is it time to resurrect the Victory Garden program that was popular during and after WW II? With rising food prices, a slowing economy, food riots in some parts of the world, the answer has to be at least – maybe. If you have an interest, connect with Tom Campbell to help with the club’s Plant A Row for the hungry garden plots or do your own thing and donate to a local food pantry.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting. Don’t hesitate to bring a friend – we’re always open to new members. We will be hearing about new plants from Ball Seed. Thank you Bob Elvert for keeping our speaker program going.  
Rod Beary

**Naperville Community Gardeners  
Committee Chairs 2008**

Annual Plant Sale.....Mary Wright  
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 204.....Wanda Wohead  
.....203.....Kristie Siuciak  
Naper Settlement.....Eleanor Holt  
Naper Settlement Rose Garden.....-Brian Bell  
River Walk Cleanup.....Linda Thompson  
Riverwalk Gardens.....Joe Pope  
Flower and Garden Show.....Tom Campbell  
Harvest Banquet.....Wanda Wohead  
Historian.....Carolyn Finzer  
Library.....Ben Calvert  
Membership.....Betty Ferrance  
Meeting Refreshments.....Linda Allison  
Mini Show.....Beth Engle  
Newsletter.....Kris Siuciak  
Mail distribution.....Mary Wright  
Officer Nominating Committee.....Jill Borlick  
Organic Gardening Sub Group.....Betty Ferrance  
Photography.....Patty Thompson  
Picnic.....Linda Thompson  
Publicity.....Linda Thompson  
Programs.....Bob Elvert  
Shop and Share.....Jill Borlick  
Show Director.....Rosemary Holdredge  
Special Events.....Betty Earl  
Special Correspondence.....Eleanor Holt  
Website.....Peter Klassen

Flowers for Funds

The Planter’s Palette has offered to help raise money for the University of Illinois Extension in DuPage County. Just shop on any day between

**Monday, May 5 – Thursday, May 8, between 9am and 6pm using the attached coupon**

Go to the University of Illinois Extension DuPage County website at to print additional coupons.

Thank you for your support!

## **April Minutes Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, April 7, 2008**

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Mary Wright at 7:05. Tom Campbell 2nd.

**Welcome:** 44 members attended. Guests Davida Kalina, Marilyn Mills, Randy Scheib, Boyd Halfacre attended. Arup Bhuyan attended as a new member.

**Minutes and Treasurer's Report:** Eleanor Holt motioned to approve the previous month's minutes, Linda Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ron Ory motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, Mary Wright 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Announcements/Committee Reports:**

- Plant Sale – Mary Wright reported that we need help on Friday evening for everyone to bring their plants. The trucks will come Friday at 5:00 pm and we need people there at 3:00 to help unload the trucks and help set up the tent and tables. Please sign up for more than one activity. On Saturday, the sale will start at 7:30 am so we want everyone there by 6:45 am. We need cashiers, people to water, do customer service, plant ID, publicity, refreshments, setting up tables, road signs, etc. Contact Mary Wright at to sign up. Members voted to have Brian Bell once again send out the discount postcards to previous customers. Mary will email out a similar flyer to club members so they can send out email notices to friends etc and to print off and post/distribute notices. Members are asked to get out any yard signs that they still have, and to display them the week before the sale.
- Plant Sale Member's Plants – Barbara Jones reporting for Betty Ference reminded folks to fill out the forms for what they will be bringing to the plant sale. (See Attached). Also let her know if you have plants to donate but would like some help digging/potting them up. Betty has committee meetings scheduled for

- Thursday May 8th and Wednesday April 23rd - contact her if you're available.
- Eleanor Holt asked for help on May 13<sup>th</sup> to plant at at Pre-Emption House at Naper Settlement.
- Linda Thompson – Riverwalk mulching is Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will meet behind 600 S. Washington at 8:00 am. If you don't see us right behind this building, walk up or down the Riverwalk to find us. Feel free to bring any helpful children. She is in discussion with the Park District to get some club recognition for our efforts in this area. Bring wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes and dress appropriately for the weather. Put your name on your tools. If you have a club tee-shirt or hat, wear that.
- Linda Thompson asked if anyone is interested in doing a garden club picnic/garden tour this summer .
- Ron Ory thanked those members who helped and will be helping at the Park District Gardening Seminars.
- Beth Engle – Lizzie's Greenhouse is hiring part-time people.
- Rob Beary - Peter Klassen would like people to submit articles/photos etc to him to post on our web site. Visit our web site [www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org](http://www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org)
- Bob Elvert – said our March speaker from Ball Seed was sick and she will come back for our May meeting. Author Patricia Hill, originally scheduled to speak in May, will now be our speaker in June.
- Beth Engle presented the mini-show. Ron Ory brought in Redwing Dogwood rooted cuttings which he gave to members. Beth said you need to prune out the older canes (3-5 year growth) as the new canes have the best color. Freda Haller brought in an African Violet. Beth brought in an fragrant orchid mounted onto a piece of handmade ceramic pottery. Our speaker Al Kosnow, brought in a rosemary bonsai. Eleanor Holt brought in a beautiful begonia 'Caravan'. Jan Gricus brought in some lamium (Spotted Deadnettle). Bill Mills brought in a rosemary and some rosemary cuttings, rooted with powder hormone. Rosemary Holdrege brought in amaryllis 'Naughty Lady' with variegated foliage which she got from [www.amaryllis.com](http://www.amaryllis.com). Nancy Carroll brought

in a variegated yucca in flower. She also brought in giant pussy willow branches and amaryllis 'Flair'. Beth said when you are cutting amaryllis after flowering, you don't have to cut the entire flower stalk – you can just clip off the flower part (cut at an angle so it doesn't bleed water all over) as the stalk also photosynthesizes. Nancy brought in some tiny pink Glory of the Snow flowers. The winner of the cash raffle was Freda Haller.

**Adjournment:** Mary Wright motioned to close the meeting at 7:50 pm. Logan Wasson 2nd.

**Presentation: Al Kosnow - Midwest Fruit Explorers [www.midfex.org](http://www.midfex.org)**

Al Kosnow talked about growing fruit in small spaces. Fruit trees are generally not started from cuttings and do not come "true" when planted from seed (a common misconception). This is particularly true in apples because they have a huge genetic variance. The only way to get a "true" plant is from a graft on tree stock. The root stock is nourishing the grafted material. The root stock can also determine if the plant will be a dwarf. He had slides of fruit trees grown on an espalier – a way of growing plants on a wall to conserve space. He said you might not get that much fruit from a plant grown in this way but this is a way to get fruit in a very limited space. They can be trained to grow in this way on a link fence – attaching it to a link fence is very easy. It was amazing the size of the tiny spaces that Al grows these in! The graft is generally a few inches above the ground. He recommends growing gooseberries. There are no root stocks for pears that will dwarf them as much as there are for apples. He mostly grows the plants on the south and southwest sides of the house. They can be trained in a free form vs a more formal design. Al grafts most of his plants himself and he says that many people can do this themselves, with practice. His club runs a grafting workshop and lessons. One is this coming Sunday at the Chicago Botanic Garden at 1:00 pm and the lessons are free. There are different methods of grafting that

are used different times of the year. Animals can be a problem - raccoon, possum, deer, squirrel, chipmunk. Some years, pears will give beautiful fall color. The club web site [www.midfex.org](http://www.midfex.org) is a good web site which features a member from Skokie, who grows a tremendous amount of fruit on the M27 (dwarf) root stock. Pears are the only fruit that you should pick before they're ripe and they should ripen off the tree. If you let them ripen on the tree, they will be overripe on the inside. Seckel Pears (Sugar Pear) are the variety that Al recommends the most for growing at home. If you spray (fungicide) the fruit trees and they are against a house or fence, they might stain. Fruit trees grown on trellis, are taller than espalier-grown, and still grown in a limited space. "Stone fruits" – peach, plum, cherry etc need to be pruned correctly to fruit, so they can be harder to espalier. Apples and pears are the easiest to espalier. If you have them growing next to a house foundation, the concrete might leach and change the pH of the soil and tie up the iron so you might need to supply extra chelated iron into the soil or the plant will become chlorotic.

Hello Members:

My schedule has not permitted me to attend the last few garden club meetings, but I haven't forgotten about our plant sale.

It's time to start thinking about what you can contribute to the member's plant sale. I wonder did any of those Popsicle sticks indicating plants that can be divided survive the winter. I have attached the label request form that we have used in the past. You can email the list to me at: [betty.ference@uchospitals.edu](mailto:betty.ference@uchospitals.edu) or bring to the May meeting.

For those of you who have signed up to assist in making labels, please mark your calendar for Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM to meet at my house, 1035 Whirlaway Avenue, Naperville. Hopefully we

will have everyone's plant label requests in by that date.

Also note Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM as a Membership plant sale planning meeting. We will be discussing site preparation, labeling, signage, how and when members can shop, crowd control, pricing, should we make potted arrangements, etc. If you are interested, please plan on attending. We will be reviewing what worked last year and what we need to change for this year.

If you would like to contribute plants but need assistance with digging, please let me know and I will arrange for some help.

Most of our profits come from member contributions, every plant counts. Happy digging!

Thanks

Betty Ference

