



Naperville Community Gardeners

Kris Siuciak, Editor
Mary Wright, Distribution

February 2008
Established 1980

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

Next Meeting

March 3, 2008

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

Speaker: Kristen Ludwig
Ball Seed
Topic: "What's new in 2008"

2008 Officers

President	Rod Beary
Vice President	Robert Elvert
Secretary	Barbara Jones
Treasurer	Tom Campbell
Past President	Linda Thompson

BE SURE TO FIND:

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From the President

Thank you Bob Elvert for bringing Donna Danielson to our meeting as a speaker in February. In spite of fowl weather (was that a typo? No, because only a goose could appreciate the fog that shut down airports but not our meeting). In any case, Donna, who works in the plant clinic at Morton Arboretum gave an excellent talk on how to analyze and diagnose plant problems. Be sure to read this months notes by Barbara Jones.

One topic of discussion at our meeting was how to provide hands on support to members who are representing NCG by doing worthwhile projects in the community e.g. Brian Bell tending to a rose garden at the Preemption House at Naper Settlement, Eleanor Holt tending the bulletin board at the Naperville Park District's garden plots or Carolyn Finzer's efforts to beautify the post office to name a few. Members present at the meeting believed that if any project leader needed help, all they had to do was ask and they would get the help needed. I only report this to encourage anyone who is in need of help for a club sponsored project -- just ASK. A good way to do that is to send an email to Eleanor Holt who will get the request out to the membership.

Along that line, committee members, led by Logan Wasson are making preparations for this year's Plant Sale. Everyone is encouraged to participate in some fashion, especially on the day of the plant sale. It is our only fund raiser and makes our budget possible. Everyone can donate plant materials to the sale to supplement our purchased plants. Make sure to let Betty Ference know what you intend to bring. If anyone is interested in growing seedlings from seed this spring and would like to build a lighthouse, let me know at the March meeting. It is possible to grow thousands of seedlings in a space no larger than 28 inches by 51 inches by 7 feet.

Beth Engle is running the mini show this year and has brought some great ideas to make it more worthwhile and fun. It truly is a mini version of our annual Flower

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and Vegetable show - recognition and prizes are given. Make sure to bring your entries in each and every month. And, don't forget, if you have extra plants or other items to share with members, bring them as well.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Gardening season is fast approaching and we are fortunate to have the Ball Seed representative coming in March to let us know what is hot and what is not. They usually back their words up with tangible samples. Bring a shopping bag, just in case.

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

Riverwalk Clean Up

This year's Riverwalk cleanup day is slated for Saturday, April 12th from 9 am till 11 am.

Please plan to join your fellow gardeners in a worthwhile project which supports our community. Specific details about where to meet and what tools to bring will follow.

Public Workshop on Caroline Martin-Mitchell Properties Scheduled for February 26

The City of Naperville will host a public workshop regarding the Caroline Martin-Mitchell properties on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 7 p.m. in Meeting Rooms B&C of the Naperville Municipal Center, located at 400 S. Eagle Street. This meeting is the first city-sponsored general public event for the area.

The workshop will provide all interested stakeholders with an opportunity to talk to representatives from the City of Naperville, Naperville Park District, School District 203 and the Naper Settlement about opportunities being considered for the properties in this area. Participants can ask questions about the plans of these agencies and share their ideas and concerns about all properties within the study area.

In 2007, the city facilitated discussions with land owners and lease tenants about the future of these properties. The purpose of these meetings was to look at opportunities to collectively plan for the future of the entire Caroline Martin-Mitchell estate. A series of concept plans were generated for discussion purposes, but no single concept has been recommended due to a lack of consensus among these land owners and lease tenants.

The purpose of this planning process is to look ahead to the future to consider how land owner and lease tenant plans for these properties may relate to one another, identify any collective infrastructure and transportation needs that may exist, and opportunities for shared services and parking. The hope is that through an intergovernmental planning effort, improvements can be coordinated and facilities may even be shared (e.g. parking, stormwater, access points, etc.) to provide an efficient land use pattern that will benefit the entire community and is consistent with

the wishes of Caroline Martin-Mitchell.

Following this meeting, city, school district, and park district staff will continue to coordinate closely on this project to develop a summary report of recommendations for consideration by the City Council, School Board and Park Board later in 2008. Additional information is available on the city's Web site at www.naperville.il.us/mitchell.aspx.

Naperville Park District Gardening Workshops

The park district is scheduling the workshops for Tuesdays, April 1st and April 15th from 7 to 9 pm; so those of you who wish to pull an April fools day prank on the first or have your taxes done on the 15th and wish to be a part of the panel of avid gardeners, please let me know as soon as possible. If anyone has a special subject for beginning gardeners/first time users of the garden plots, please let me know what the topic is and how much time you'd like.

These workshops **will not** be tailored for organic gardening. The park district is trying to set up a separate workshop for that.

Up Coming Events of Interest

2/28/08 (7-9 PM), Four Seasons Gardening: Climbers and Twiners, Vines for the Home Garden. Kendall County Extension. Pre-registration required, Fee \$5.00 each session, by calling 630-553-5823

3/22/08 and 3/28/08 - Spring Celebration, Celebrate the coming of Spring with beautiful plants, new & exciting products, and FREE lectures. Green View Nurseries, 1501 Ogden Avenue, West Oswego, IL, 630-898-0200 (call for hours)

4/5/08 The Birdhaven Greenhouse (Joliet Park District) and Joliet Area Garden Club will be presenting 'Garden Day 2008' from 8:30am to 2:00pm at the Barber Oberwottmann Horticulture Center on Gougar Road in Joliet, IL. Our speakers for this event will be Trudi Temple, renowned garden speaker and author, in whose personal garden the seeds began that culminated in the program 'Market Day', which Trudi founded. Joining Ms. Temple will be Mr. Richard Eyre, Conifer expert and proprietor of Foxwillow Pines Nursery in Woodstock, IL and Mr. Pablo De Andrea, noted garden and nature photographer. Tickets (\$35, which includes lunch) may be purchased by calling Kevin Eberhard at Birdhaven: (815) 741-7278

extension 5. We will also have garden related vendors, raffles and door prizes.

4/8/08 (1 – 3 PM) and 4/10/08 (7 – 9 PM)

Four Seasons Gardening: Orchids 101

Lecture and slide presentation on how to select orchids suitable for the home and then keep them thriving. **AND**

4/22/08 (1 – 3 PM) and 4/24/08 (7 – 9 PM)

Four Seasons Gardening: Containers With Pizzazz,

Lecture and slide presentation offering ideas for design, container selection, and plant combinations. Kendall County Extension, Registration required, Fee \$5.00 each session, by calling 630-553-5823

5/6/08 (1 - 3 PM) and 5/8/08 (7 - 9 PM) Four Seasons

Gardening, A Palette of Annuals from A to Z

Kendall County Extension: \$5.00 preregistration required call 630-553-5823

For all Kendall County Extension Programs:

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/inform/default.cfm>

2008 Bus Trip -Possible Dates...

Betty Earl has proposed the two weekends as possibilities that we could squeeze in bus tours to gardens, while they are still somewhat at peak. These would be the weekend of July 19th and/or 20th, and weekend of July 26th and/or 27th.

We'd like to know whether people have any interest in going on a bus tour to view gardens either one of those weekends before Betty actually starts pursuing this with homeowners. Let Barbara Jones know via email (bwjones123@hotmail.com) or phone (630-527-0122)

February Minutes

Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2008

Call to order: 7:00 pm by Rod Beary, President. Rod started the meeting by asking attendees to introduce themselves to each other for a few minutes and to talk about any special gardening projects they are planning.

Welcome: Erin Tuttle and Arup Bhuyan attended as guests. Erin is a member of the Conservation

Foundation and she volunteered to list our plant sale in their newsletter.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Linda Thompson moved to approve the prior meeting minutes and Ron Ory seconded the motion. Tom Campbell handed out the Treasurer's Report and we went through it. Beth Engle motioned to approve the Treasurer's Reports for December and January, Kris Siuciak seconded the motion.

Mini Show: Beth Engle told us about the changes we are making to the mini show and explained how this relates to the August Flower Show. Entries to the mini show are eligible to win a cash prize drawing. She is encouraging people to bring things in to the mini show and to get used to filling out the tags. She presented a beautiful amaryllis that Ron Ory brought in, and Tom Campbell brought in an African violet. Beth told members how to get amaryllis to reflower. After they flower, she brings them outside for the summer in a bright location with indirect light (like under a tree) where she fertilizes and waters them. In September she stops watering them and allows the foliage to die back. In the fall she brings them back into the house and puts them in a cool location (like in a crawl space in the dark). After a 'rest' they are ready to bring up again and start watering to bring them out of dormancy. Tom was the winner of the drawing.

Announcements:

- **Linda Allison/Refreshments** – Let her know if you can sign up to bring refreshments to a meeting
- **Betty Ference/Plant Sale** – Betty is responsible for the Members Plants sold at the Plant Sale. She will be communicating with everyone via email to start getting the committees together. She said that she will need more tables this year. She will not be at the March and April meetings. Mary Wright was not at the meeting. Logan Wasson will check with Mary to get us started on organizing the sub-committees. We also discussed other possible vendors for our plants like Lizzi's and AAA Ornamentals. Our Plant Sale is May 10th.
- **Barbara Jones** – Postcards are available for members to give to others to invite them to one of our meetings.
- **Linda Thompson** – She would like people to fill in and return their questionnaires from the December newsletter on members opinions on our club.

- **Rod Beary** – He is taking any orders for corn gluten. Corn gluten is in 50 lb bags for \$28. It is good for organic control of weeds. It has some pre-emergent capacity and is high in nitrogen. Wanda said it is good for around onions and corn. Ron will be placing the order soon so contact him if you are interested. He will bring them to the April meeting.
- **Rod Beary** – He talked about the discussion at last month's meeting about all the different activities that members do. He asked the group if anyone from the club wanted to be a committee chair for a SWAT team. This chair would have a list of members who could be called to help these committee chairs with their activities, on a per-activity basis. Ron wasn't sure if we needed a new committee here or if we need to reconsider some of our current commitments. Ron and Logan Wasson are suggesting that people sign up for specific committees. Beth Engle says that the club tends to work best when we have an assigned date for a specific activity. Betty Ference suggested that people who have those committees that require help, present a plan to the club which explains what is needed and when. We will have the committee chairs do that.

Old Business: Rod Beary talked about the garden plots and Betty Ference said that some club members are combining some garden plots in the organic area and if any club members are interested in helping, to contact Betty, Linda Thompson or Barbara Jones. Ben Calvert will continue to be in charge of the same 4 plots that he gardens for the Plant a Row for the Hungry to the left of the kiosk at the south entrance.

New Business: Betty Ference brought in the flyer for Orchids by Hausermann. Barbara Jones asked club members to save candidate yard signs which she will collect at the March meeting and recycle so we can use them for Plant Sale yard signs.

Adjournment: Kris Siuciak motioned to close the meeting, Betty Ference 2nd.

Presentation: Bob Elvert presented our speaker, Donna Danielson from the Morton Arboretum. She works in the Plant Clinic at the Arboretum, and she also teaches several excellent classes on Plant Insects and Diseases, which are open to the public. See www.mortonarb.org in the Adult Education area. Her topic for our meeting was "Diagnosing Plant Damage."

Yikes – What is wrong with my plant???” She said that proper diagnosis should be taken before the appropriate corrective action can be determined.

These steps will help you make the correct diagnosis.

- Identify the plant. This is extremely important which will help you determine the specific conditions that it will thrive in.
- Establish what is normal for that plant, this time of year. She says that a hand lens is very useful for really getting a good close-up look at the problem area. Her current favorite book is “Garden Insects of North America” which has insects that affect all types of plants and is an excellent reference. The Internet is a good source of information, particularly the extension services. She suggests searching on Google with Parameter site: .edu which will only bring up .edu sites.
- What do you see that looks abnormal? Is the problem uniform or in a pattern? Uniform damage is usually caused by a non-living thing (like chemical) Did the problem occur slowly over time, or suddenly? Sudden damage is not usually caused by a disease or insect.
- What are the plant’s site conditions? Has anything changed in the area around the plant? Compare the site conditions to those which the plant likes.
- What is the horticultural history of the plant, its age, was it planted correctly, was it mulched correctly? Often trees are planted too deeply for the root flare, or have mulch volcanoes which harbor voles, insects etc.
- What is the environmental history, including recent weather.
- What are the common problems with this type of plant.
- Use all of the above to determine the cause. The cause might be a living factor (insect, disease, fungus). Majority of plant diseases are caused by fungi. They are responsible for root rots, cankers, vascular wilt, leaf spots, leaf and stem blights. Viruses are hard to identify and often cause some sort of stained-glass pattern.