



Naperville Community Gardeners

Kris Siuciak, Editor
Mary Wright, Distribution

March 2008
Established 1980

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

Next Meeting

April 7, 2008

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

Speaker: Allen Kosnow, Midwest Fruit Explorers

Topic: Growing Fruit Trees in Limited Spaces

2008 Officers

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

BE SURE TO FIND:

Page 2 Barbara Jones' Book Review

Page 6 Ron Ory's Links for Native Gardening

From the President

Wow! What a great meeting our members put on for the March meeting. The speaker from the Ball Seed company was not able to make her speaking engagement due to illness. Not to worry though, club members Brian Bell (Dahlias), Ron Ory (native landscape), Terry Pilz (ponds and fish), Kristie Siuciak (hard landscape), Barbara Jones (critter proofing), Beth Engle (what's hot), Rob Beary (organic growing). On short notice, I mean like one minute, these individuals picked a topic and led a group of volunteers on the subject then reported their work back to the group at large. One member told me she learned more at this meeting than from any other meeting she has attended. Our members have a lot of experience and knowledge about gardening. A good group to hang with if you like gardening! Be sure to read Barbara Jones' minutes of the meeting in this issue.

We are fast approaching our annual plant sale on May 10th. Logan Wasson has placed our order for the commercial plants we will be selling. But, you are encouraged to bring in your own plants for the club to sell. That includes dividing and potting up plants from the garden and growing seedlings from scratch. Betty Ference is coordinating member plants again this year. It would be an accomplishment if our club plant sale was distinguished from all other plant sales by our home grown and unique varieties. Some members are already doing this. Feel free to join them. Another uniqueness that our club offers is that our members come to the sale ready and able to offer their expertise to purchasers. Don't miss out on that opportunity to share your knowledge with others.

For those of you interested in growing food, you may think about chipping in with Tom Campbell and Ben Calvert this year on their Plant A Row For The Hungry project. With a looming economic recession and rising food prices, the local food pantries may have more need than they can satisfy.

Linda Thompson is leading a club project to help the park district with their spring spruce up on the Riverwalk again this year. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend on Saturday, April 12th at 7:30 a.m. Bring your tools, energy and some appetite. Refreshments will be available.

Beth Engle has the meeting's mini show in high gear now. It is truly a mini garden show with members bringing in samples of their gardening acumen and sometimes even donating their samples to the club to give as door prizes. You don't want to miss the opportunity to get one of Freda Haller's (or others) creations when they come up.

Thanks to Linda Allison for the great job she and her volunteers are doing with refreshments for the meeting. If you haven't tasted some of the homemade deserts or the baklava that Nick brings...you are really missing something.

And, if you're reading this Newsletter, thank Kristie Siuciak who pulls it together and distributes it to everyone every month.

If you are picking up your order of corn gluten, please come to the meeting at least 20 minutes early.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our April meeting. We will be hearing a presentation by Al Kosnow from the Midwest Fruit Explorers. Al will talk about including fruits in your backyard garden. He is one of the most knowledgeable people on this subject and is an accomplished Bonsai practitioners as well. Ask him about his recipes and how he handles critter problems too. Al is a retired veterinarian.

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

"I LOVE WHITE OAKS"

I can't remember the last time I read a book as important, timely and relevant, as "Bringing Nature Home - How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife In Our Gardens" by Douglas Tallamy. Recently introduced to this 2007 book by Ron Ory from the Naperville Park District, I found that this book pretty much fills in the missing pieces of our current understanding of why planting native plants is so important. Until now, this understanding has been limited to knowing that native plants are better adapted to thrive in indigenous areas than non-natives, and that non-natives often become

invasive and are replacing natives in our landscapes. Recommended plant lists from the "expert" sources, for attracting butterflies and birds to our gardens, routinely include non-native plants, because they have not been understood until now, how and why only native plants should be used. Tallamy's book (available at the Naperville Public Library) provides the answer.

Butterflies, birds, plants, insects, mammals all fit together in a complex environmental web, developed over millions of years of co-evolution. Towards the base of the food chain, are the insect herbivores - insects who eat plant materials, and who are then in turn eaten by birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Their contribution up the food chain, cannot be over-emphasized. Adult birds can often eat a variety of seeds and berries from native and non-native plants, but as Tallamy reports, "96% of terrestrial bird species in North America, rely on insects to feed their young. Most insect herbivores can only eat plants with which they share an evolutionary history. Our native insects [and the animal hierarchy which depends on them] will not be able to survive on alien plant species." Adult butterflies can often drink nectar from native and non-native plants, but their larvae (insect herbivores) are highly specialized and can ONLY feed on native plants. We need to change our mindset from looking for plants that are "insect-resistant" to ones that are "native insect-edible".

So the next time you are considering a new plant for your yard, please disregard the "experts" when they recommend non-natives such as Norway Maple, Bradford Pears, lilacs etc. These plants are being recommended because they have good ornamental value and are well adapted to our climate and soil. The experts are not yet fully aware of Tallamy's groundbreaking research. There are many lists of native plants to be used instead and many local nurseries are beginning to highlight native plants in their selections.

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 Input on Caroline Martin-Mitchell Properties

On Feb. 26, the Park District participated in a community forum regarding the Caroline Martin-Mitchell properties. The City of Naperville coordinated the public meeting to begin gathering public feedback regarding current and proposed uses of the properties. The Park District is exploring opportunities to collaborate with School District 203 on additional field space, including future renovations of Knoch Park and possible joint use of a portion of the garden plot area for athletic fields. At the meeting on Feb. 26, community input was solicited regarding the entire Caroline Martin-Mitchell properties.

A report on the public feedback and the planning process will be compiled and posted on the City of Naperville's website at <http://www.naperville.il.us/mitchell.aspx>. Copies of the conceptual plans presented at the meeting are also available on the website. As the concepts are further reviewed, there will be additional opportunities for public input.

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.

Upcoming Gardening Events

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 Oberwornmann 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.

Upcoming Gardening Events

University of Illinois Extension Programs:

Orchids 101

Register by April 1, 2008

Orchids 101

Register by April 3, 2008

Containers with Pizzazz

Register by April 15, 2008

Containers with Pizzazz

Register by April 17, 2008

Environmental Program for Local Government

Register by April 21, 2008

Composting: Building Your Garden From the Ground Up

Register by April 22, 2008

A Palette of Annuals: A to Z

Register by April 29, 2008

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage/>

Location: DuPage Office, 1100 E. Warrenville RD, Naperville

Fee: \$10.00

Chicago Botanic Gardens

Illinois Orchid Society is having their Spring Show and sale at the Chicago Botanic Gardens April 5th and 6th, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This is the IOS's Biggest show of the year, and will have 18 vendors besides the IOS memberships' sales table, and 27 different orchid exhibits. Repotting services will also be available. Entrance to the show is free, but regular Garden parking fees apply. If you are a member of the Morton Arboretum, you can park for free. You will need to show your ID card...

For more info go to:

<http://www.iosoc.com/show/spring.shtml>

Also at the last meeting, I mentioned a new *Miscanthus* that is going to be available that has stripes so close together that it reminded me of a pheasant's feather. I couldn't remember the name of it at the time. It is *Miscanthus* 'Goldbar'. Look for it this year in your local

garden centers

Beth Engle

Rain Barrel Sale

Here is something you might find interesting a compost bin and rain barrel sale in Lake County.

Here are the links

<http://www.lcfd.org/plantsale>

<http://www.lcfd.org/rainbarrel>

Mark Cizan

March Minutes

Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2008

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Ollie Burrows at 7:01, 2nd by Linda Thompson.

Welcome: Marilyn Krueger, Jennifer Boylan, Linda Drummond, Janice Gricus, Linda Kibburz, Marilyn Mills, June Vandervest, Nancy Pope attended as guests.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Jan Bargmann motioned to approve the previous month's minutes, JoAnn Monge 2nd. Linda Thompson motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, Jan Bargmann 2nd.

Announcements/Committee Reports:

- Plant Sale – Logan Wasson reported that we had a committee meeting to discuss the plans for the Plant Sale on May 10th. His notes on the Plant Sale planning, are included in this newsletter. Please read these and start giving thought as to what committees you can help with for the Plant Sale. Also its time to start to think about what plants you can donate to the Plant Sale, from your garden. If you would like help dividing up your plants, be sure to let Betty Ference know. It's a great way to get a little free help with your garden spring cleaning!
- Linda Allison - Has the refreshment list and is looking for people to sign up to bring refreshments.
- Barbara Jones (filling in for Betty Ference) reminded folks that yearly \$15 dues were due to the treasurer.
- Barbara Jones (for Betty Earl) asked club members to give their preferences for July dates for a possible garden field trip this

summer. Possible dates are July 19th, July 20th, July 26, July 27th. Please let us know as soon as possible, your preferences.

- Tom Campbell asked club members who are in charge of any club projects, to give him a small write up for a binder which we intend to keep to document our club activities.
- Linda Thompson – Riverwalk mulching is April 12th. We will meet behind 600 S. Washington at 7:30 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.
- Rod Beary said he has plans for a "light house" that can be used to start seeds in your home. Contact him if you're interested. A light house is a great way to start seeds in a small amount of space.
- Rod Beary says he will bring the corn gluten next month. We will meet in the parking lot before the next meeting. He asked to receive payment for this in advance. Corn gluten is a good grass treatment for turf – it is a pre-emergent that is good for weeds. It also has a high nitrogen content. Cost is \$28/bag.
- Rod asked all committee chairs, please to give us a write up and photos of your club activities, so we can put these into our newsletters and local publications.
- Barbara Jones asked members to refrain from wearing colognes, after-shave and perfumes to the meetings and club activities. We have some club members who are extremely sensitive to these –they can even cause migraines. Our air circulation in the basement isn't very good, so please help us out with this.
- Ron Ory said the Park District has info on their web site and mailings on the upcoming gardening workshops. This info was not in the Spring Park District brochure. Please let him know if you are available to help with the workshops on April 1, and April 15th. The Park District is also offering workshops on Organic Gardening on March 25th and April 29th. You may also sign up with the Park District to attend these informative free classes.
- Eleanor Holt says the Cooperative Extension Service has moved to Naperville at 1100 E. Warrenville, Rd. Suite 170. Phone (630) 955-1123. A link will be provided on our web site to their web page www.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage. She has brochures to distribute for their upcoming classes and information.

- Barbara Jones has info on the Garden Plots including the proposed partial relocation by the Park District. See the City website www.naperville.il.us/mitchell/asp for more information. The City and the Park District are interested in getting feedback from the community on their proposals. Please distribute this info to your neighbors, subdivision associations etc.
- Beth Engle presented the mini-show. We had many lovely entries this week. Rod and Mary Carter Beary brought in 3 varieties of garlic so you can see how the different varieties keep. Wanda Wohead brought in a yellow Gerbera Daisy which she overwintered (not an easy task!). Beth Engle brought in Amaryllis Aphrodite in full flower with HUGE double white/blush blossoms. Rod Beary brought in a cascading Rosemary plant. He said this plant was easy to propagate by pinning some of the branches to the ground in the summer and he suggests members try this means of propagation. Freda Haller brought in an African Violet with dark purple flowers. Ron Ory brought in a yellow primula. (Beth said that the white and yellow primula varieties tend to be the most fragrant.) Eleanor Holt brought in a white "Home Depot" African Violet. Eleanor also had a large Kalanchoe plant. The winner of the raffle was Mary Carter Beary.

Old Business: Barbara Jones made a proposal to make a \$90 donation to the Naperville Garden Club Bluestar Memorial Marker in honor of our club veterans. Mary Wright 2nd. Beth Engle made a motion to increase the donation to an even \$100 contribution and club members approved. Our veterans are: David Bargmann (Navy), Terry Pilz (Army), Chuck Baumrucker (Navy), Joe Pope (Air Force), Ollie Burrows (Air Force), Ron Ory (Army), Logan Wasson (Army), Bernie Wilger (Army) and Norris Yonker (Navy). There will be a dedication ceremony for the Bluestar Memorial Marker on Saturday May 17th at Burlington Sq. Park (by the 5th Ave train station).

Adjournment: JoAnn Monge motioned to close the meeting at 7:50 pm. Beth Engle 2nd.

Presentation: Our planned speaker for the meeting, cancelled so we were without speaker. So instead we made good use of all the gardening expertise in the club, Rod Beary broke us up into groups and we talked about various gardening topics.

- Kris Siuciak's group talked about incorporating shrubs into a perennial border. They recommended the following shrubs and

perennials: Annabelle Hydrangea, Callicarpa (Beauty Bush), Physocarpus diablo (Ninebark), Baptisia, Peonies, Amphora (Lead plant), Linder benzoin (Northern Spicebush), (attracts an endangered butterfly: the Spicebush Caterpillar).

- Rod Beary's group talked about Organic Gardening. One of the benefits of organic gardening is that the plants tend to be stronger and better producing. Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is a good organic control of caterpillar type pests (although it is dangerous to beneficial caterpillars also). It is important to amend the soil in organic gardens as better soil means stronger plants that are more resistant to insect and disease problems.
- Ron Ory's group talked about Landscaping with Native Plants. They talked about the benefits of using natives: they're low maintenance, drought tolerant, and beneficial to insects and birds. Native plants are good food sources, beautiful, good for improving clay soil. Norway Maple and Burning Bush are now considered non-native invasive plants that are not good to grow in this area. Ron also emailed me this info following the meeting: "Here's the correct info on some of the references I mentioned last night: [Creating Habitats and Homes for Illinois Wildlife](#), 2003, Illinois Dept of Natural Resources and University of Illinois, [Bringing Nature Home \(How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens\)](#), 2007, Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, [Plants of the Chicago Region](#), Floyd Swink & Gerould Wilhelm, Morton Arboretum. On-line sources of info include: www.chicagowilderness.org www.theconservationfoundation.org www.il.nrcs.usda.gov (The Native Plant Guide contains ink drawings and descriptions of some 60+ plants) A great source for cheap native plants is the annual native plant sale by the Wheaton Park District and the city of Wheaton. This year the sale is April 26th, at 8:30 am. Their plant list will be available soon. They buy their plants from Possibility Place Nursery." Thanks for the extra info, Ron! The plant list is available at www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/pdfs/2008PlantInfo.pdf. The DuPage Forest Preserve will also offer a Native Plant Sale on May 9th at 9:00 am at Mayslake Peabody Estate.
- Brian Bell's group talked about different types of dahlias and roses and Brian had a beautiful slide presentation. Dahlia expert Ollie Burrows

helped with questions on name, type and information on cultivation of dahlias.

- Terry Pilz's talked about ponds and Jeanette Rottersman shared her experiences with heron problems with her koi in her large pond. Terry says his fish eat eggs, spaghetti, cheerios, corn, oranges, fish food, and that koi are not very smart animals.
- Beth Engle's group talked about "What's Hot" in Gardening. They like the following plants: Hersey Hybrid – a brown sweet pepper, Striped Roman tomato, Bulgarian Carrot – a hot pepper, Super-Stripe Miscanthus grass, Northwind Panicum grass, Euphorbia Diamond Frost – an annual which can overwinter inside which is great in container plantings.
- Barbara Jones/Eleanor Holt's group talked about how to handle animals nibbling on our plants. Plants that they don't eat: daylilies, salvia, impatiens, aconite, bearded iris, perennial geranium, monarda, nepeta, astilbe, bleeding heart, daffodils, eupatorium, nicotiana, datura, brugmansia, castor bean, buddleia, Rabbits like: Asiatic lilies, hostas, roses, heuchera, young ornamental trees and shrubs, clematis, black eyed susan, delphinium, echinacea. Terry Pilz recommends fine weave black mesh for covering plants like hostas in the spring. Ann McNichols puts tin foil 2' high around the base of young trees. Eleanor says that as soon as the hostas start to pop up, she covers them gently with an evergreen branch to protect them when young. She lets the rabbits eat malva plants which are self-seeding annuals.

PLANT SALE UPDAYE, 3 3 2008 GENERAL MEETING

I. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEETING

- HAD COMMITTEE MEETING ON LINCOLNS BIRTHDAY. THANKS TO: BETTY, BETH, BARB, ELEANOR, ROD AND LINDA FOR GIVING UP THEIR LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES TO ATTEND.
 - a. TOPICS COVERED:
 - i. DATE OF SALE MAY 10
 - ii. SALE OF PRODUCT TO OUR MEMBERS WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL AFTER THE SALE COMMENCES. THIS INCLUDES TAKING PLANTS OFF SALE. ANY DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM?
 - iii. FOLLOWING DETERMINED:
 - 1. PETER—WILL DO PRICING LIST, POPSICLE STICKS, WEBMASTER SITE UPDATE AND TENT CONSTRUCTION
 - 2. MARY IS CHAIR, WILL GET BOY SCOUTS AND HAS RESERVED SITE AND OBTAINED PERMITS OF MAY 10. WILL FOLLOW WITH COMMITTEE TO ASSURE SUCCESSFUL SALE.
 - 3. BETTY IS IN CHARGE OF PUTTING TOGETHER ALL THE MEMBERS PLANTS, PRICING AND POSTIONING FOR SALE
 - 4. ELEANOR WORKING WITH PRE-EMPTION HOUSE FOR NEEDED PLANTS AND ASSEMBLING COMMITTEE FOR PLANTING SAME. ALSO, IN CHARGE OF WEATHER
 - 5. BEN HAS BEEN ASKED FOR INPUT NEEDED FOR "PLANT A ROW"
 - 6. ROD PROMISED HEIRLOOM TOMATOES THIS YEAR
 - 7. BETH WILL DO QUALITY CHECKS AND DETERMINE VENDOR COMPLIANCE TO OUR REQUIREMENTS
 - 8. BARB WILL FOLLOW ON PRE-SALE PLANT QUALITY WITH VISITS TO VENDORS. WILL DO HAND-OUTS AND WORK WITH BRIAN ON MARKETING OF THE SALE. PERHAPS A BLOW UP GORILLA ?????
 - 9. LOGAN WILL PUT TOGETHER BUY, PLACE WITH VENDORS AND FOLLOW ON ORDER PROGRESS
 - 10. NO RUMMAGE SALE THIS YEAR
 - 11. WILL ADD A WELL DONE CERAMIC SALE SITE

II. SPECIFICS ON BUY FOR SALE

- DOLLARS ON BUY \$6325.75, BUDGET SET AT \$7.0K DOWN \$1.0K FROM LAST YEAR
 - **DYNAMICS OF THE BUY:**
- THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED LAST YEARS BUY, DETERMINED THE BEST SELLERS BY CATEGORY AND POSITIONED THE SPECIFIC PLANTS AND UNITS TO BUY. PASS DOWN TO VENDORS DETERMINED:
 - a. NEW VENDOR THIS YEAR WILL BE LIZZIES FOR VEGGIES,
 - b. SCHAEFERS AND SHADY HILL AS PRIOR YEARS
 - c. PLEASE NOTE THE SPECIFIC ORDERS BEING PASSED OUT, THERE ARE 5 COPIES, PLEASE RETURN TO ME AFTER YOUR REVIEW
- AFTER MEETING, ORDERS WERE SET UP AND E-MAILED TO ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR REVIEW
 - A WEEK WAS ALLOWED FOR REVIEW AFTER WHICH ORDERS WERE SENT TO RESPECTIVE VENDORS. ORDERS IN PLACE AS OF 3 3 08.

AT THE APRIL MEETING WE WILL CIRCULATE RESPONSIBILITY SHEETS FOR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES, ASSIGNMENTS ETC.

QUESTIONS: ??????