



The Hidden Gem

May, 2023

Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville celebrates 71 years of serving the greater Libertyville area with civic plantings, scholarship awards, local charitable donations and our Hidden Gems Garden Walk.

THIS MONTH:

- Spring Clean Up
- Tetanus & Gardening
- Successful transplanting
- Upcoming Events

So much activity! Our members enjoyed a great presentation on pollinators by Majorie Leon, Master Gardener. Plant natives this spring - many wonderful varieties to choose from, beautiful and a blessing to the bees and butterflies.

First steps of the installation of the Memorial Butterfly Garden began with removal of daylilies, salvia, and euonymus, and amending the soil with free compost from the Grayslake Extension. Thank you to the Carmel Catholic students who helped as ministry for care of creation. Near the end of May, new plants (selected per the North American Butterfly Association criteria) will be set out.

Our scholarships, civic plantings, and charitable donations are funded by the Hidden Gems Garden Walk. Members are planning publicity, designing posters, and signing up to staff our ticket sales at the June Libertyville Farmers' markets. Online ticket sales are open HERE. Please join us; we know patrons will be impressed and inspired by 2023's beautiful local gardens. Each garden will feature a nature-themed artist sharing and selling their work. Click the links to access a sneak peak of gardens & artists!



The earth laughs in flowers - Ralph Waldo Emerson

News and Notes

Our civic planting teams are expanding their seasonal work! Initiated and organized by our civic chair, Anne Stranberg, Club containers at the Civic Center, Ansel B. Cook Home, and Cook Library will now be filled from spring through the early winter holidays. Creativity ruled for the first delightful spring container designs.



Library



Civic Center

The Memorial Butterfly Garden team finished their first work day. Sue Hazelwood, Master Gardener and project chair wrestled into submission the worse of the Euonymus vines, while Annie Cochran and the students worked on removing and transplanting daylilies and salvia. The bed is prepared and ready to go for May planting. Stay tuned!



May Tips



Spring Cleanup

by Laura Edwards, Master Gardener

Spring has sprung...finally! Midwestern gardeners are ready to begin our favorite Season of the year, Gardening Season. We anxiously await Spring and all that it brings. From the first crocus blooms to the budding of the trees and bushes, the earth is putting on a show for all of us.

Although it is hard to contain our excitement about cleaning up our gardens to welcome the new growth, curtailing our Spring cleanup is advantageous to all of the pollinators in our gardens.

As Kelly Alsup, Horticulture Educator for University of Illinois Master Gardener Extension notes, it is best to avoid cutting back plants until overnight temperatures stay above 50 degrees. This usually occurs in our area by Mid-May. The warmer temperatures stimulate the insect activities of eggs hatching and the emergence of butterfly larvae. The larvae is often camouflaged by parts of the plants. Several bee species also overwinter in the pith or center of stems. You can cut the stems back to 12-18 inches during the early Spring to encourage egg laying.

In late Spring, you can remove dead foliage, chop it into large pieces and spread it around the garden to encourage pollinator survival. Leaving cut dead stems in place will encourage bees to nest. Finally, Alsup recommends avoiding early Spring mulching. This could hamper our ground bees from emerging.

In conclusion, patience when tidying up our gardens in the Spring will pay off in a big way. It will give our pollinators a chance to naturally emerge and perform their “work” in our gardens.

Happy Spring!

Here are a few Articles to supplement your learning about Spring Cleanup:

[Spring Garden Cleanup](#)

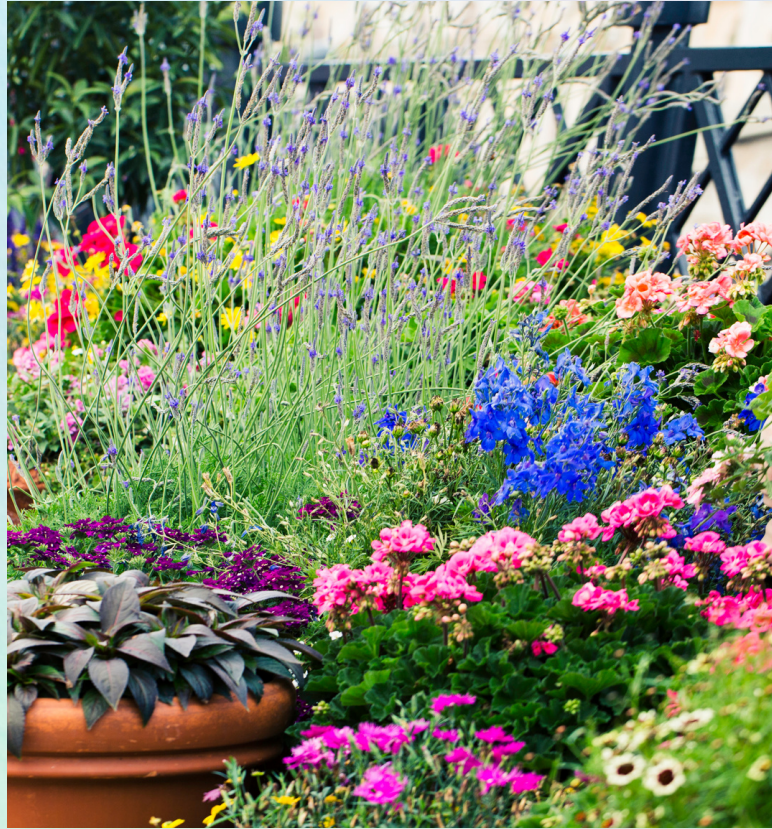
[When should I start cleaning up my garden?](#)

[Delay spring garden cleanup, encourage native insects](#)

Container Gardens

One of the most fun spring gardening tasks is filling container gardens. From May to autumn frost, these blooming baskets brighten up our porches, decks, and walkways. Each year, it's good to review how to create an impressive and cohesive gorgeous grouping.

First, always keep in mind whether the pot will be in sun or shade. Choose plants accordingly. The combination of "Thriller, Filler, and Spiller" is a great foundation for a spectacular pot. Thriller adds height, Filler packs the pot, and Spiller flows over the edge. Complementary colors and textures completes the design.



Plants come in four inch pots and smaller six-packs. Choose enough plants to fill but not crowd your container. However, if you are looking to fill your pots quickly for an early event, purchase larger/more starter plants. Keep in mind, editing of the pot may then be necessary in the summer.

Looking for inspiration? Try [Pinterest](#) OR a great tool from Proven Winners: [Container Gardens Recipe Search](#). Fabulous container gardens have never been easier to create!



The Healthy Gardener

Don't skip taking care of the gardener when taking care of the garden! Did you know tetanus bacteria are commonly found in soil, dirt, and manure?

Tetanus is a nerve condition associated with a bacteria that lives in the soil and manure called *Clostridium tetani*. It can cause devastating neural symptoms and even death if absorbed through the skin via the dozens of tiny nicks, scrapes and cuts associated with gardening.

No reason to panic - we've been receiving the tetanus/diphtheria (Td) vaccine since childhood. A serious cat bite and a nasty bike fall insured this author received timely boosters, but all adults are not so...lucky?!...and will need to receive a scheduled booster every ten years.

Check your medical records and take this easy step to protect yourself. Continue to create beauty and blooms for years to come.



Transplanting



After early indoor planting and pampering future zinnias, tomatoes, and assorted other seedlings, it's time to move the garden starts outdoors.

When transferred outdoors, plants experience wind, temperature changes, direct sunlight, and rainfall. The goal of hardening off is to slowly expose the plants to the elements of the outdoors to strengthen the plants.

Hardening takes 1-2 weeks. Set seedlings out during warm daytime temps and bring them in at night. Make sure to check last frost dates for your area before transferring plants to the garden. If possible, choose a cloudy day for transplanting - plants will have another day to get acclimated without sun scorch.

Set most seedlings in a hole level with the soil surface. Plant tomatoes deeper - they sprout additional roots along the buried stem. These extra roots strengthen the plant so that it can support more fruit and is better able to survive hot weather!

Upcoming Events

HIDDEN GEMS GARDEN WALK



June 24th

Five exceptional gardens

Meet the gardeners and be inspired by unique designs and specimens.

Nature themed artists exhibit and

selling work at each site

Tickets on sale NOW online

In person June Thursdays at

Libertyville Farmers' market

University of Illinois
Lake County Extension
Master Gardeners

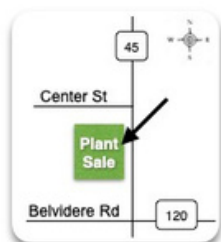
PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 20, 2023
9 am - 2 pm



All proceeds support Extension projects and programming for volunteers, youth and adults

Rain or Shine Cash, Check, Charge



University of Illinois
Lake County Extension
100 South US Hwy 45
Grayslake IL 60030

WE ARE OFFERING

A beautiful selection of **nursery grown plant varieties** not readily available in traditional garden centers. Supply is limited so come early—these plants will go quickly!

-  Natives, Perennials, Pollinator-Friendly Plants
-  Vegetables, Herbs
-  Garden Treasures
-  Gardening Advice from Master Gardeners

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

-  Call 847-223-8627
-  www.extension.illinois.edu/lm
-  Lake County Master Gardener: University of Illinois Extension





Native Plant Sale
Lake County Forest Preserve

Saturday, May 20
9 AM - 3 PM
 & Sunday May 21st
10 AM - 12 PM
Independence Grove

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

My Journey into the Wilds of Chicago

Based on the groundbreaking book of the same name, *My Journey into the Wilds of Chicago* celebrates the natural wonders of the Chicago region in dramatic fashion. Visitors will be immersed in the beauty of Chicago as photographer and author Mike MacDonald (A past presenter at TCGC) ignites a love for nature inside nine chapters of pictures, poetry, and prose. Through summer.

Gardeners of Central Lake County



PLANT SALE



Saturday, May 13

8:30-10:30 AM - Rain or Shine

CRAWFORD HOUSE
817 LAKE STREET
LIBERTYVILLE

For more information...
 Cindy 847.772.2186
 juliancindy@hotmail.com
 www.gardenersofcentrallakecounty.org

- . Annuals
 - . Bedding Plants
 - . Herbs
 - . Houseplants
 - . Natives
 - . Perennials
 - . Vegetables
- Cash or Check accepted

Plants grown by seeds, bulbs, and cuttings. No plants are dug from gardener's yards.



FOR MORE VISIT: www.towncountrygardenclub.com