



The Hidden Gem

October, 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.

Hello Fall! The leaves are just beginning to change. Turtleheads, asters, monkshood, and, of course, mums offer color among tired garden foliage yearning for a few months of rest.

In September, Kent Taylor from the Climate Reality Project spoke to our club about climate change and the potential dangers of global warming. We learned how our daily practices can impact the environment.

The Hidden Gems Garden Walk Committee met to plan our 2024 Walk - scheduled for **JUNE 29th**. Please put us on your calendar - it's an event well-worth the early bird note. We are again blessed with community homeowners willing to share amazing gardens. Stay tuned for more details!

Our civic containers and butterfly garden are transitioning beautifully to autumn - continue to visit and enjoy.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
- Albert Camus

THIS MONTH:

- Flower Show Results
- Meet a Member
- Poison Ivy
- Healthy Gardener
- Upcoming Events



Photo by
Risé Barkhoff



Photo by Laura Edwards

News and Notes



Representing Town & Country Garden Club, Risé Barkhoff and Ann Baker participated in the GCI District IX flower show at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Risé was awarded the first place ribbon for a caladium leaf and a second place for a creative planter of brick with succulents.

Ann received a first place ribbon for her Cobra pole beans, a gladiola bloom, and a Jeana Phlox bloom.



New Member Coffee

We've had a rewarding year welcoming wonderful new members. Our new member coffee was an opportunity to connect with these women and review the ins and outs of Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville. Welcome to all!



Front row: Jennifer Sparrow, Bea Mikai, Jeanne Curtin, Laura Edwards, Therese Schaefer
Back row: Janet Lichtenberger, Carol Braunschweig, Sharon Sill, Evelyn Olsen, Debbie Smagacz
Not pictured: Mary Ellin Innis

Meet a Member

A new feature of the Hidden Gem

Laura Edwards



Tell us about yourself: I joined the TCGC this past March. I have lived in Green Oaks and Libertyville for the past 27 years. I am married to Bill and we have three sons. I am a Registered Nurse and retired in 2021 after a 44 year career in Nursing. In October, 2021, I completed the Master Gardener Program, fulfilling a goal I've had for many years.

Who influenced your gardening? I would be remiss not to mention my gardening mentor, my Dad. Along with my Mother, he raised seven daughters on the SW side of Chicago and was an avid gardener.

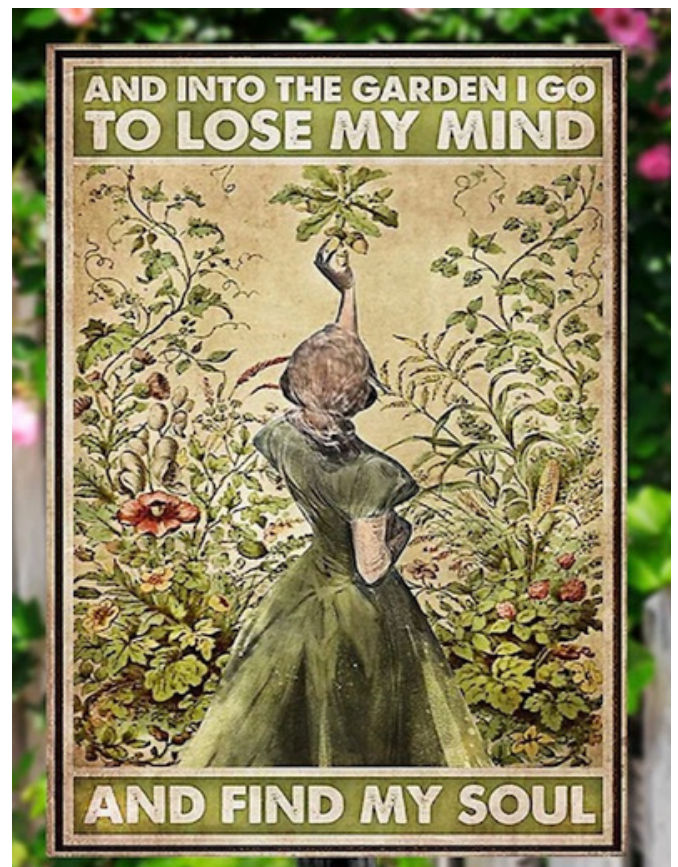
From starting seeds each winter under grow lights in the basement, to organizing a neighborhood Sunflower growing contest, gardening provided a healthy outlet for stress relief and an enormous amount of joy and satisfaction. He raised an abundance of fresh vegetables and a variety of flowers.

What do you love about gardening? I have found gardening to be a wonderful stress reliever. I always said I enjoy the quiet and solitude of working in the garden.

Least favorite gardening activity? The heavy work of digging and moving heavy materials! Thank goodness, I have help with these tasks.

Share a gardening tip: Be adventurous and plant new plants that catch your eye in a nursery or in a garden that you visit. There are so many new varieties to grow and incorporate into your garden. Conversely, if the plants don't thrive in your garden or you don't like how they are growing, do not be afraid to move them or remove them.

What is your favorite Perennial? The Shasta Daisy. It is such a simple, beautiful flower whose white and yellow color brightens up the garden.



Perennial of the Month

Shasta Daisy



As Laura Edwards noted in her Member of the Month feature, the Shasta Daisy is such a simple, beautiful flower whose white and yellow color brightens up the garden. Several cultivars of Shasta daisy plants are available to the gardener. Some may reach 3 feet in height while others are just a few inches tall.

Shasta Daisies prefer fertile and well drained soil, located in a sunny spot. They do not like soggy roots. Since they are a short-lived perennial, a strategic annual planting of new stock will help ensure a lush area of blooms. Dead-heading spent flowers will often result in a nice second blossoming. Plants may need to be staked, depending on location and cultivar.

Native of the Month

Black-Eyed Susan

Black-eyed Susan is also known as Brown-eyed Susan and is found throughout Illinois. The black-eyed susan is a versatile plant, tolerating a variety of soil conditions. It does best in full sun. It is a biennial or short-lived perennial that reproduces from seed. Flowering occurs from June through September. Many have found it to be more aggressive than “short-lived” indicates as it reseeds itself forcefully.



For more information:

[DNR Information sheet](#)
[Prarie Wildflowers of Illinois](#)

Garden Gremlins: Poison Ivy

by Ann Baker

I first encountered poison ivy 20 years ago. We received our spring order of mulch, and within a month, a new “weed” began to sprout. Luckily, I identified it as poison ivy and took proper precautions when fighting the epidemic throughout my garden beds.

Poison ivy is common in our community gardens. Small seedlings look like other young weeds, but they do quickly develop the “leaves of three”. The plant begins to vine as it matures, either over the ground or up a nearby tree. The vines and leaves can become quite large - in fall, the leaves turn a beautiful, brilliant red. Still poisonous though, so don't touch!



Poison Ivy is best removed when small. Wearing gloves, dig around and under the plant, being careful not to touch. Lift by the root - I place it in a plastic grocery bag for separate disposal.

According to the the Illinois Extension Service, “If you find yourself with one of those vines up the tree, carefully cutting through the vine at the soil line is the best option. Do not remove the vine; just leave it there to dry in the tree. No need to pull it down. Treat that vine stump too.” They recommend treating with a glyphosate product, using product guideline precautions.

For more information, read the following articles:

[Beware of poison ivy's different forms by Richard Hentschel](#)
[Leaves of three? Keep poison ivy out of the home landscape](#)
[How to Kill Poison Ivy in Your Yard - natural methods](#)

The Healthy Gardener: Skin Irritations



Gardening is an activity TCGC members thoroughly enjoy; however, some plants we encounter can cause skin irritation, from mild itchiness to blistering rashes. Vegetable plants with tiny hairs (bean runners, strawberries, and squash) cause a mild allergic reaction for many harvesters; poison ivy, common to our area, causes a much more serious reaction.

Avoid exposure by covering up when working with plants. Wear gloves, shirts with long sleeves, full length pants, socks, and shoes that cover your feet, like an old pair of workout shoes or gardening boots or clogs.

Avoid touching your face while gardening. Irritation to eyes, nose, and mouth is much harder to mitigate than irritation to the skin. If you need to wipe away sweat, keep a clean washcloth handy. Use it to blot your face dry.

Shower when you finish gardening and change into clean clothes. Sap, pollen, and other parts of plants can get on your clothes and skin. Use a washcloth and mild soap - if you are concerned about exposure to poison ivy or other residual oily resin, use Dawn dishwashing soap and lightly but thoroughly scrub with a washcloth.

Make sure you also machine wash your gardening clothes before wearing them again. Be careful touching the clothes and gloves that may have been exposed to plant irritants. If you truly believe there is poison ivy exposure, use disposable gloves to handle the items, then dispose of the gloves, carefully turning inside out as you remove them.



Upcoming Events

Rethinking Fall and Spring Cleanup

Sponsored by Wild Ones

Tuesday October 3, 7 - 8 pm

Fremont Public Library, Events room, 2nd floor

Registration Required.

For more information: click [HERE](#)



Oaks of Illinois Workshop

Illinois Extension

October 19, 2023

1 - 4 p.m. Online

Oaks are an important plant groups in Illinois, home to 21 different native oak species. Oaks provide habitat and food for wildlife, support biodiverse ecosystems, contribute to improved air and water quality, and provide shade benefits reducing energy use. Gain an understanding of these trees in a free, online workshop led by [Chris Evans](#), Extension forestry expert.

[Registration/Information](#)

Spotlight Garden Tour

Native Plant Garden

Chicago Botanic Garden

October 3, 2023

9 - 10 a.m.

[Information/Tickets](#)

