

# The Hidden Gem

June, 2023



The  
**TOWN & COUNTRY  
GARDEN CLUB**

of Libertyville

## THIS MONTH:

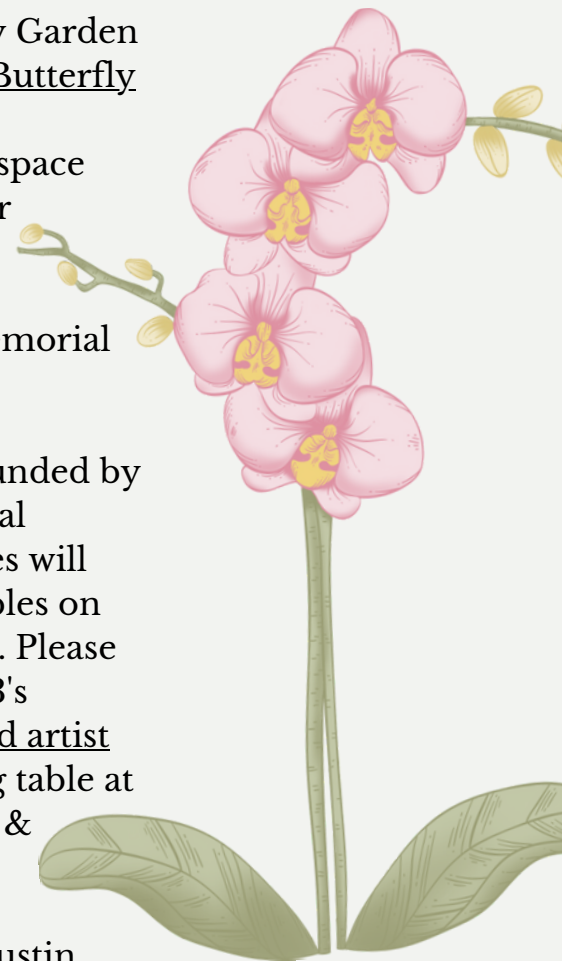
- Scholarship Winner
- Civic Activities
- Hidden Gems Garden Walk
- June Garden Tasks
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**Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville**  
celebrates 71 years of serving the greater  
Libertyville area with civic plantings,  
scholarship awards, local charitable donations  
and our  
**Hidden Gems Garden Walk.**

AH, June - beautiful weather, beautiful blooms!

Our May meeting speaker, Don White, helped solve the mystery of caring for Orchids. We were inspired to adopt one of the many varieties of this beautiful specimen. On May 24th, the Memorial Butterfly Garden team installed the new plants (selected per the North American Butterfly Association criteria) in front of the Civic Center. Stop by when downtown. These fledgling plants will grow to fill and grace the space for years. Our civic teams started creating our summer container gardens at the Civic Center, Cook Mansion, Library and Metra Station. See photos of our happy gardeners and their beautiful creations. Riley Nebel was award the 2023 Stephanie Greene Memorial Scholarship (p.2). Congratulations!

Our scholarships, civic plantings, and charitable donations are funded by the Hidden Gems Garden Walk. Publicity is in full swing on social media, posters are up around town, and our in-person ticket sales will begin at the June Libertyville Farmers' markets. Look for our tables on the Milwaukee Ave. sidewalk. 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 and Chrissoulas will offer a tasting table at one garden site. Click the links to access a sneak peak of gardens & artists!



*To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul - Alfred Austin*

# News and Notes

## Stephanie Greene Memorial Scholarship

by Laura LeVert

Our Garden Club is happy to announce the 2023 scholarship winner, Riley Nebel. Riley is currently attending Illinois State University in Normal, IL. He is majoring in Agronomy and Horticultural Landscape Management. He has spent the past five summers working at an all organic farm and has become very interested in vertical farming and hydroponics. At college he is a member of the Agronomy Club, Agriculture Ambassadors, and Illinois Farm Bureau club.



Riley has challenged himself to design an experiment investigating intercropping to reduce the need for fertilizers to help control nutrient runoff. This idea was spawned from a study of the hypoxic zone off the Gulf of Mexico and the concern of Illinois runoff traveling south.

*Congratulations, Riley!*

## Civic Plantings

Our civic planting teams are busy converting the early spring designs to warm weather blooms. Stop by and enjoy these containers throughout the summer at the Ansel B. Cook Home, Cook Library, Civic Center, and Libertyville Metra Station.



# The Memorial Butterfly Garden

The Memorial Butterfly Garden team finished installing the Butterfly Garden in front of the Civic Center. Curious about the plantings? A listing and design layout is available on our website: [Memorial Butterfly Garden](#)



Before



After

The Team!



# June Tips

## Embrace the Summer Blooms

As the temperatures rise and the days grow longer, June gardens burst with vibrant colors and lush foliage. Whether you have a spacious backyard or a cozy balcony, here are some activities to keep your green thumb busy throughout the month.

Early June is the perfect time to plant summer bulbs, such as canna, gladiolus, and dahlia. These show-stopping flowers will add a touch of elegance to your garden. Choose a sunny spot with well-draining soil, and follow the planting instructions provided with each bulb.

June is the time to sow seeds of warm-season crops like cucumber, squash, and corn. These vegetables thrive in warmer soil conditions. Make sure to provide adequate spacing and consider adding organic compost to enrich the soil before planting.

If you have fall-blooming perennials that have become overcrowded or lost their vigor, June is an excellent time to divide them. This process rejuvenates the plants, promotes healthier growth, and allows you to expand your garden or share divisions with fellow gardening enthusiasts. Remember to water the newly divided plants regularly to help them establish in their new locations.

Mulching helps conserve moisture, suppresses weed growth, and maintains a more consistent soil temperature. Consider using leaf mulch, which can be created by shredding fallen leaves. This organic mulch enriches the soil as it decomposes, benefiting plants.

It's crucial to stay on top of weeding and dead-heading tasks. Weeds compete with your plants for nutrients and water, so removing them promptly will ensure healthier growth. Dead-heading spent flowers encourages further blooming.

If you have container plants, be diligent about watering. As the temperatures rise, potted plants tend to dry out more quickly, requiring more frequent watering. If your potting soil doesn't contain continuous-release fertilizer, feed your plants with a balanced fertilizer every month to provide the necessary nutrients for robust growth and vibrant blooms.



# The Healthy Gardener: Sun Protection while Gardening

Gardening is a wonderful activity that allows you to connect with nature, grow your own plants, and create a beautiful outdoor space. However, it's important to remember that spending time in the garden exposes you to the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays, which can lead to sunburns, premature aging, and an increased risk of skin cancer. Fortunately, with a few simple sun protection measures, you can continue to enjoy your gardening hobby safely.

1. **Wear a Hat:** Choose a wide-brimmed hat that shades your face, neck, and ears. This will help shield your skin from direct sun exposure and reduce the risk of sunburn and skin damage.
2. **Time Your Gardening Sessions:** The sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., so it's best to plan your gardening activities for the early morning or late afternoon when the sun is less intense. Additionally, try to work in shaded areas of your garden - this will reduce the risk of sunburn and heat-related illnesses.
3. **Cover Up:** Long-sleeved shirts and pants provide an extra layer of protection for your arms and legs. Look for clothing made from lightweight, breathable fabrics that won't make you feel overheated while working. Clothes with built-in ultraviolet protection factor (UPF) maximize your sun protection.
4. **Apply Sunscreen:** It's important to apply sunscreen before heading out to the garden. Choose a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. Apply it to all exposed areas of your skin, including your face, neck, arms, and legs. Remember to reapply every two hours or more frequently if you're sweating or coming into contact with water.

Remember that prevention is key when it comes to sun damage, and taking these measures will ensure that you can enjoy your garden for years to come, without compromising your skin's health.

# Hidden Gems Garden Walk

The Town and Country Garden Club of Libertyville is hosting its annual Hidden Gems Garden Walk on Saturday, June 24th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. “We’ve seen a resurgence of interest in gardening, and the Walk lets visitors stroll through the picturesque landscapes of Libertyville's neighborhood gardeners,” says Ann Baker, co-chair of the event.

The Garden Walk features five exceptional gardens. This year's homes include an expansive property with wood-beam art, an ongoing buckthorn clearing project, and a waterfall; a cottage garden with innovative containers and bursts of summer blooms; a private family retreat cleverly created with ornamentals and trees, graced with a prolific Jackmanii clematis; an outdoor family room featuring a spa-pool and gathering area with a striking use of hardscape; a butterfly/pollinator garden blending unique natives with midwestern favorites.

While online sites can provide generic vision, Ann points out, “The Walk gardens are great inspiration and demonstrate what flourishes in our area.” Be prepared to be motivated! Owners will be available to enthusiastically answer questions and share their stories.

Imagine wandering through the enchanting gardens and discovering talented artists at each site, blending their creativity with the natural surroundings. Each artist brings a unique perspective and medium to the Garden Walk. In another bonus to walk patrons, Chrissoulas restaurant will offer a tasting table at one garden site. Chrissoulas is a Mediterranean-inspired restaurant owned and run by Libertyville local brothers and classically trained Chefs Nick and Theo Dimitriou.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 day-of, online sales are open via Club website. In June, tickets are available in person at the Thursday Libertyville Farmer’s Market and at the Village Hall. The proceeds fund community plantings, Blue Star Memorial wreath and restoration, and scholarships for area students enrolled in a Horticulture/Environment-related field. 2023’s special Club project is the installation of a Memorial Butterfly Garden at the Civic Center.

Gather some friends and enjoy a special summer Saturday on this self-guided tour, driving within Libertyville to the five sites and exploring the gardens at your own pace. For further Hidden Gem Garden Walk details, garden photos, and artists’ links see the club website: [www.towncountrygardenclub.com](http://www.towncountrygardenclub.com).

# 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

Chrissoulas tasting table  
(one garden site)

Tickets on sale NOW online  
In person June Thursdays at  
Libertyville Farmers' market

**Chicago Botanic Garden:  
Northern Illinois Hosta Society  
Display & Sale  
Saturday & Sunday  
June 3 – 4  
Burnstein Hall  
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Presented by the Northern Illinois  
Hosta Society**

**Hundred's of cut hosta leaves will be  
on display. Plus, unusual and hard to  
find hosta varieties will be for sale.**

**Saturday, June 3 at 11 a.m. Presenter  
Lou Horton will speak on his favorite  
hosta varieties and what makes them  
extra special.**



## *A Walk in "The Shire"*

July 22, 2023

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Rain or Shine

No Refunds

Tour Spectacular Gardens in the Lincolnshire Area

Including the Renowned MacLean Garden in Mettawa

Advance Purchase Tickets will be \$15; \$20 day of Garden Walk

Proceeds Help to Fund Roberti Community House, Vernon Township Food Pantry & Garden, Community Plantings, Center for Enriched Living Preservation Foundation, Lake County Forest Preserves, and Many Others

ALL TICKETS, ADVANCE & DAY OF PURCHASE, MUST BE PICKED UP AT 49 OXFORD DRIVE IN LINCOLNSHIRE AT SPRING LAKE PARK

Please Begin Walk at This Site! Other Sites Will Not Have Available Online-Pickup Tickets or Ticket-Holder Lists

Cold Water Will Be Available for Attendees

For More Information About Advance Ticket Purchases Please Visit Our Website: <https://LincolnshireGardenClub.com>

### Native Gardener's Club: Ready, Set, Grow June Lake County Forest Preserves

Whether you are new to native gardening or a seasoned veteran, join us each month to learn about native plants and how to use them in your home landscapes.

This month's topic: Healthy Hedges: What to substitute for non-native, invasive plants.  
Click [HERE](#) for more information

### Elmhurst Garden Walk and Faire

"An Afternoon in the Garden",

is scheduled for July 9th, 2023

For more Information [click here](#).



FOR MORE VISIT: [www.towncountrygardenclub.com](http://www.towncountrygardenclub.com)