

The Hidden Gem



November/December, 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.

November...the month of gratitude, thanksgiving for
the Club, our members, and our gardens.

In October, the Club installed its new officers and
thanked outgoing board members. We are so
grateful for the work of retiring Programs chairs,
Jennifer Rielly and Annie Cochran; retiring Civic
chair Anne Stranberg; retiring Secretary Norma
Seymour. We welcome incoming Programs VPs
Risé Barkhoff and Liz Leonard; Civic chair Evelyn
Olson; Secretary Sharon Sill.

The Club also inducted nine new members: Laura
Edwards, Therese Schafer, Carol Braunschweig, Bea
Mikal, Debbie Smagacz, Jennifer Sparrow, Janet
Lichtenberger, Jeanne Curtin and Sharon Sill (Dec.
2022). Each new member received a Garden Clubs
of Illinois pin. Welcome! We cant wait to experience
the gifts, talents, and energy this groups brings to
TCGC.

The Hidden Gems Garden Walk is scheduled for
June 29th. Mark your calendars!

*Love the trees until their leaves fall off, and then encourage them to
try again next year. Chad Sung*

THIS MONTH:

- Fall Civic Plantings
- Officer Installation
- Meet a Member
- Dividing Plants
- Healthy Gardener
- Upcoming Events



October
meeting
Co-hostesses
created
beautiful
Ikebana table
centerpieces



News and Notes

Officer Installation, Ivanhoe Country Club



Retiring Board Officers:
Annie Cochran, Jennifer Rielly, Norma Seymour, Annie Cochran, with Sally Steele, President

Incoming Board Officers:
Sally Steele, President, with Sharon Sill, Evelyn Olson, Liz Leonard, and Risé Barkhoff

A special thanks to Sandy Marquardt for sponsoring our luncheon celebration at Ivanhoe.

New Members Inducted



Therese Schafer, Sally Steele (President), Debbie Smagacz, Jennifer Sparrow, Janet Lichtenberger, Jeanne Curtin, Sharon Sill, Bea Mikal
Not pictured: Carol Braunschweig, Laura Edwards

Fall Civic Plantings

Anne Stranberg, Civics Officer, reports that “On a very hot day we had our first fall planting and this crew was enthusiastic and creative. They grabbed a variety of decorations and put together these beautiful pots at the Civic Center, Cook Mansion- by the steps and at the door- and Cook Memorial Library.”



Front Row: Anne Stranberg, Beth Newell, Janet Lichtenberger
Back Row: Debbie Smagacz, Norma Seymour, Julie Eberspacher,
Andrea Waterhouse, Donna Fischer



Meet a Member

A new feature of the Hidden Gem

Anne Stranberg



Tell us about yourself: I joined the TCGC in 2015. I have lived in Green Oaks and Libertyville for the past 27 years. I am married to Jim and we have a daughter, Kate, and son, Bill. In my early work life, I led a team in the analytical spectroscopy lab for a major pharmaceutical company. I've always enjoyed being outdoors and as a family we spent most of our vacation time wilderness camping. I've been working on our current homes gardens for 26 years!

Who influenced your gardening? My mother - She dug, she hauled, and she planted and every catalog was a chance to try something new. Sandy, my friend and co-worker and her husband introduced Jim and me to the wilderness canoe camping, reading rivers and identifying plant species with Peterson Wilderness books. Lastly, our garden club: member's ideas have been key to some major garden additions. Three different phases and three significant influencers.

What do you love about gardening? I love watching plants push their way out of the ground. I love their determination in snow, deep frost, drought, heat, clay, and with dogs and a novice gardener! And I love how they are all so uniquely beautiful.



Least favorite gardening activity? Moving sod and clay. I also have a hard time deciding what to do when I have to divide/thin plants.

Share a gardening tip: Find out what brings you joy in your outdoor surroundings and build on that. Consider birds and environmental benefits in your design and maintenance of your garden. Anticipate and enjoy!

What is your favorite Perennial? So hard, but I'll choose daffodils! Like other early spring charmers, they brighten my day after dreary cold and wet days. They are easy to care for but short lived. My second is eichinacea purpurea because of their summer into fall color and how the birds love them. They do not know boundaries however!



Perennial of the Month

Daffodils



As Anne Stranberg noted in her Member of the Month feature, Daffodils are one of the first flowers to brighten up the garden after winter. Plus, daffodils are deer- and rodent-resistant bulbs. Daffodils are hardy perennials that come back year after year, spreading and often naturalizing. Plant them in the fall for late winter or early spring color.

There are thousands of daffodil cultivars. The traditional daffodil flower may be a showy yellow or white, with six petals and a trumpet-shaped central corona. Select high-quality daffodil bulbs that have not been dried out. The larger the bulb, the better. They like full sun to partial shade, good drainage, and an application of a low-nitrogen, high-potassium fertilizer after flowering.

See [The Art of Planting the Bulb](#) by the Illinois Extension

Native of the Month

Purple Coneflower

Purple coneflower is a native species of prairies, open woods and wooded floodplains in Illinois. It blooms from July through September. Easy to grow and long lived, it is tolerant of heat and drought once established. It is deer resistant and the seed heads attract birds. Coneflowers prefer a well-drained garden soil in full sun. Avoid heavy fertilization which leads to tall leggy plants that fall over. Purple Coneflower seems to attract more than its fair share of butterflies and bees particularly in sunny, sheltered areas.



For more information:

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

A Yard Act to Follow

By Mary Price, Master Gardener

November is here, and the weather has turned cold and snowy. It is a bit late, but some autumn tasks can still be done. Don't risk dividing plants unless they will have time to establish roots. This information can be handy for planning spring garden renovations!

Dividing Perennial Beds Guidelines

Be aware of signs that Division is needed (or overcrowding has occurred)

- Smaller blooms
- Bald Spot at center of crown
- Staking Required
- Restricted Airflow (disease and mildew)

Divide Fall bloomers in Spring

Divide Spring bloomers previous Fall (mid Aug. to Oct)

If you are concerned that you are late in transplanting, mulch new bed heavily, and/or top with straw.

Garden Club Trivia

From the National Garden Clubs

The first garden club meeting in the United States took place in Athens, Georgia in 1891. It occurred during a time when women were seeking knowledge about a variety of subjects in study clubs of those with like interests, as they had not had the benefit of a formal higher education.

The topic of gardening was a logical choice for women in Athens, as it was the site of the University of Georgia with its botanical garden. This garden had a collection of thousands of rare plants. With the failure of the botanical garden, many residents had an interest in exchanging plants among themselves.

The idea of a garden club came from Dr. Edwin Dorset Newton, an Athens physician who had a keen interest in horticulture. 12 women met in the home of Mrs. Edwin King Lumpkin on a J in January, 1891 to form the Ladies' Garden Club of Athens. The primary purpose was to study plants with each member studying a particular variety. These members were dedicated to the study of horticulture and the exchange of plants and ideas. Members were encouraged "to carry out experiments with different vegetables, flowers, seeds and so forth to find out which varieties were best." The first flower show grew from the exhibitions of their flowers and vegetables.

The Healthy Gardener: Hints for Garden Down Time

Gardening provides many health benefits, so how does the gardener take care of oneself during the off season?

Try to get outside every day. Take a walk! Wander your yard and plan for spring. Our bodies slow down or suffer with the lack of daylight – even if the sun doesn't shine it still matters if we're exposed to outside light. Fresh air works wonders for our health and spirit.

Wash your hands. 'Tis the season of cold and flus. Washing hands with soap and water is most often the best way to control spread of germs. Use alcohol based hand sanitizer if you can't get to a sink or bathroom.

Up your Vitamin D intake. Vitamin D is critical to bone health and our immune systems. Boost your levels by getting in the sunshine and eating a well-balanced diet. Few foods are high in Vitamin D - fatty fish, dairy, and eggs have some D - so consult your physician about your D levels and supplement use.

Dry Skin? Dry inside and outside air takes a toll on skin. Use a lotion immediately after showering. Keep a lotion bottle handy by the bathroom and kitchen sinks. Don't forget lip balm to prevent chapped lips.

Get rest and exercise: Sleep is essential for maintaining health. Use this downtime to rest up. Getting outside or working out inside can help promote better sleep, and keep our flexibility and strength up for next's year's garden work.



Upcoming Events

Click images for more information



SAVE THE DATE
2024 EMG SEED EXPO
FEBRUARY 10, 2024

ROUND LAKE BEACH CULTURAL AND CIVIC CENTER



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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Lake County Extension

See all events on our website: [2023 Garden Learning Series \(Click Here\)](#)

Click on images for more details!



2023 Garden Learning Series

Upcoming Programs

University of Illinois Extension, SWALCO, and Lake County Forest Preserves present the 2023 Garden Learning Series. Programs will be held the second Wednesdays of the month, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
All programs are virtual and no cost.

- February 15: **Seed Starting for your Garden**
- March 8: **Successful Vegetable Gardening**
- April 12: **Composting: Basics, Benefits & Beyond**
- May 10: **Intro to Native Plants**
- June 14: **Rain Gardens 101**
- July 12: **Planting for Pollinators**
- August 9: **Butterfly Gardening**
- September 13: **Landscaping with Native Plants**
- October 11: **Landscaping for a Changing Climate**
- November 8: **Starting Native Plants from Seed**

Wednesday, November 8
6:00 pm (Virtual)
Starting Native Plants From Seed

Starting native plants from seed can be challenging until you know the tricks to sparking germination. Discover what it means to stratify and scarify seeds and which species need which treat-

[Register Here](#)



For More Information Contact:
Jesse Davis, jessebd@illinois.edu
Merlaine Rampale, mrampale@swalco.org

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Lake County Forest Preserves

SWALCO
SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

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Wild Ones
NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES
LAKE-TO-PRAIRIE CHAPTER

MAIL IN REGISTRATION DUE BY 11/4/23
2023 NATIVE LANDSCAPING CONFERENCE
Bringing Nature to Life by Preserving Healthy Ecosystems
NOVEMBER 11, 2023 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center