



# The Hidden Gem

## September, 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.**

Midsummer gardens are beginning fade. The finches are feasting on purple coneflower seed heads. Our vegetable gardens continue to produce the tasty tomatoes, and we've planted seeds for autumn harvest of cool crops, looking forward to a crop of beets and spinach.

In August, we toured the Maclean Gardens, a beautiful estate filled with gorgeous gardens and Asian art. A big thank you to Liz Leonard for arranging the tour.

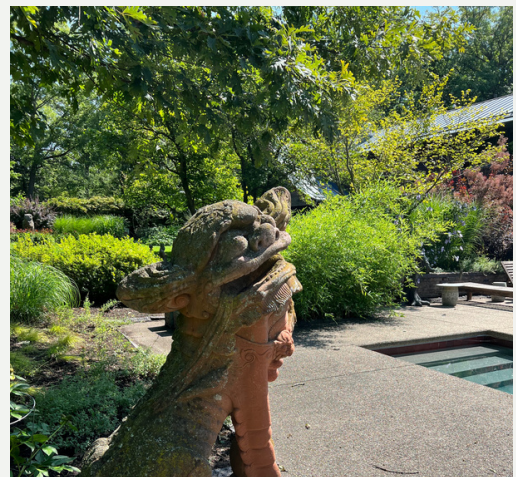
The dedication of our memorial Butterfly Garden on August 19th was a wonderful celebration of a year's worth of planning, petitioning, and planting. A special thank you to Sue Hazelwood for leading the Butterfly Garden committee. See article on page two.

Watch our civic containers at the Civic Center, Cook Mansion, Library, and Train Station for a gradual transformation to fall arrangements.

*A late summer garden has a tranquility found no other time of the year. William F. Longgood*

### THIS MONTH:

- Butterfly Garden dedication
- Create a Butterfly Garden
- Stings!
- Biennials
- Upcoming Events





# News and Notes

On August 19, 2023, the Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville gathered to formally dedicate the memorial Butterfly Garden, located in front of the Libertyville Civic Center. The garden honors past members who nurtured nature and members' hearts through years of community service and faithful friendship.

Sue Hazelwood opened the ceremony, welcoming our members, Mayor Donna Johnson, and the President of the Libertyville Civic Center Foundation, Walter Oakley, thanking them for graciously allowing us to plant this garden in the heart of downtown Libertyville. Mayor Johnson thanked TCGC for their contributions to the Village's beauty and ecosystem.

Annie Cochran highlighted the importance of butterflies to the environment and our happiness. Ann Baker described our emotional and spiritual connection to butterflies and how their striking metamorphosis inspires our imagination.

Sally Steele recognized the donors and committee, and then read the names of members who have passed away. After a moment in remembrance, butterflies raised by Annie Cochran were released.

We welcome to all our garden - visit often as the flowers bloom at different times during the seasons. Pollinators and butterflies are enjoying this small village oasis - we hope you do too.





# Garden Tips

## Create Your Own Butterfly Garden

by Sue Hazelwood, Master Gardener

If you build it, they will come.....

Attract more butterflies to your yard by creating a habitat that butterflies and other pollinators need to survive.

Here's how.....



Photo: Ann Baker



Pick a Sunny Location – Most flowers attractive to butterflies are going to do best in full sun. Six or more hours per day of full sun is optimum.



Choose the Right Plants – Butterflies need two types of plants- host and nectar plants. Host plants are where butterflies lay their eggs and are the source of food for emerging caterpillars. Nectar plants provide flowers that adult butterflies feed on. Choose flowers that bloom at different times to provide nectar throughout the season. Butterflies are attracted to red, orange, yellow and purple flowers, especially when planted in masses to make colors easier for butterflies to see.



Butterflies Need More Than Plants – Provide flat rocks for sunning and grasses or shrubs to provide a windbreak and a shady spot to rest. Avoid using insecticides in or near your garden.

For more on butterfly garden requirements and plants, see the following:

- [Butterfly Garden Requirements and Plant Lists \(illinois.gov\)](http://illinois.gov)
- [How to Start a Butterfly Garden | The Student Conservation Association \(thesca.org\)](http://thesca.org)
- [Butterfly Gardening | Illinois Extension | UIUC](http://illinois.extension.org)

# Biennial Bliss

by Ann Baker

Some of the most beautiful flowers in a garden are biennials. Many bloom before most perennials take center stage and then gracefully yield their ground to long-blooming summer annuals.

A biennial is a plant with a two-year life cycle. During the first year, it produces vegetative leaf and root growth; during the second year, it blooms, sets seeds, and dies. Some biennials manage another year of flowering but with less vigor.



Photo: Ann Baker



They are easy to grow from seed - this is a great time to start them in your empty seed trays. After the seedlings are established, transfer them to an appropriate garden spot, keep them watered, and watch for blooms possibly in 2024, or 2025.

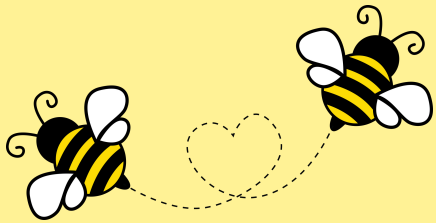
Three favorites are foxglove, hollyhock and some varieties of campanula. Club gardener Ann Baker found that the mild winter did not kill back her hollyhocks, which bloomed in 2022, their second year, and again in 2023 - bigger and better than ever.



Looking for recommendations from a Chicago expert? In this [Fine Gardening Article](#), Amanda Thomsen lists some of her favorites and a system for keeping your biennials happy and present from year to year.



# The Healthy Gardener:

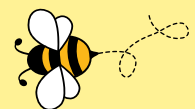


## Sting Care

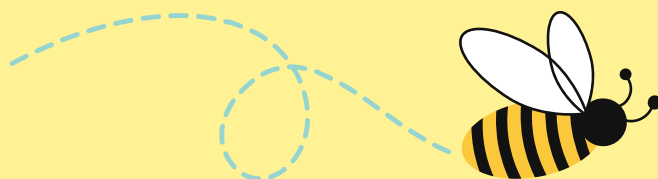
Getting that perfect garden or landscape that you've been dreaming of requires spending time outside. It's highly possible you'll get stung by a flying insect such as a bee or a wasp. These insects are found in any healthy garden and help to pollinate your garden keeping plants healthy.

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends the following tips to treat a sting from a bee, wasp, or hornet:

1. Stay calm. Although most bees usually only sting once, wasps and hornets can sting again. If you are stung, calmly walk away from the area to avoid additional attacks.
2. Remove the stinger. If the stinger remains in your skin, remove it by scraping over it with your fingernail or a piece of gauze. Never use tweezers to remove a stinger, as squeezing it can cause more venom to release into your skin.
3. Wash the sting with soap and water.
4. Apply a cold pack to reduce swelling. However, if the swelling moves to other parts of your body, such as your face or neck, go to the emergency room immediately, as you might be having an allergic reaction. Other signs of an allergic reaction include difficulty breathing, nausea, hives, or dizziness.
5. Consider taking over-the-counter pain medication. Bee, wasp, and hornet stings are painful. Painkillers like acetaminophen or ibuprofen can help relieve the pain. Always follow the directions on the label and use the correct dose.



Although most people do not experience severe reactions to bee stings, it's a good idea to keep an eye on anyone who has been stung in case they develop more serious symptoms. If you notice any signs of an allergic reaction, seek medical attention immediately.



# Upcoming Events

## Central States Dahlia Society Show

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Saturday & Sunday  
September 16: noon – 4:30 p.m.  
September 17: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Burnstein Hall

Get ready for an explosive burst of color that will leave you loving dahlias! Presented by the Central States Dahlia Society, this judged exhibit will feature 16 total displays using nearly 1,000 dahlia blooms ranging in size from a silver dollar to a dinner plate. Society members will be on hand to provide written information and to answer questions about dahlias. Blooms will be available for purchase at the end of show on Sunday from 4 to 4:30 p.m..

**Fall Warblers Walk - Daniel Wright Woods FP**  
**Saturday, September 16, 2023**  
**7:30 AM 10:00 AM**  
**Captain Daniel Wright Woods**

Migration should be in full swing for this walk. Daniel Wright Woods is an easy gravel trail along the Des Plaines River and through oak-hickory forest, attracting plenty of migrants passing through. We will have some fun with the confusing fall warblers and some that are not so confusing as well. Red-headed woodpeckers are common here.



[CLICK HERE for information](#)