



# Naperville Community Gardeners

March 2012

*Purpose: To nurture the gardening interests of its members and the community through educational programs and community service projects.*

## Member Garden Walks and Picnic Scheduled for June 30th - Hosts Needed

We still need 1-2 more gardens for our annual tour. If you can volunteer to be a garden host this year, we will all enjoy seeing your garden. Please let me know if you will host.

*Laurel*

### Upcoming Dates:

March 5, 2012	Meeting & Program
April 2, 2012	Meeting & Program: <i>Planting for Pollinators</i>
April 21, 2012	Riverwalk Clean-Up
May 7, 2012	Meeting & Program <i>Project Budburst</i>
May 12, 2012	Plant Sale
June 4, 2012	Meeting & Program
June	Member garden tours/picnic
July 21	Garden Walk @ John Richter's in Warrenville
August 6, 2012	Meeting & Program
Sept. 10, 2012	Meeting & Program
October 1, 2012	Garden Bounty Potluck & program
November	Harvest Banquet - no meeting
December	No meeting

## Next Meeting

Monday

March 5, 2012

7 p.m.

**Knox Presbyterian Church**

**“Proper Techniques for Pruning Trees & Shrubs”**

presented by  
Dan Klindera

Dan Klindera will speak to members about proper techniques for pruning trees and shrubs. March is a perfect month for this task.

Klindera, District Manager for Autumn Tree-SavATree Company, holds a BS in forestry and a certificate in the International Society of Arboriculture. He was the City Forester for Park Ridge. Since joining Autumn Tree in 1998 Dan has developed public education and awareness programs. He is a member of the Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Team developed by the Morton Arboretum in 1993. Autumn Tree serves as the Principal Tree Health Care Sponsor of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

**Mark Your Calendars  
Riverwalk Cleanup - April 21st**

# Members' Plant Sale 2012

Do you have perennials that need to be divided this spring and are willing to bring them to the NCG Members' Plant sale May 12th? If so, once you have divided the plants you send the information about number of plants, variety, color, bloom time, sun/shade/water requirements etc. on the form that will be sent out electronically, in April and May, or use a paper copy that will be provided at the April and May meetings. Once complete, the form is then sent by e-mail or given to Linda Allison. A plant label will be ready and waiting for you when you deliver your plants to the sale Friday May 11<sup>th</sup> or early on sale day Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please refrain from "sharing" invasive plants for the sale. Two such plant varieties are *Lythrum salicaria* – Purple Loosestrife and *Lysimachia nummularia* – Moneywort. Both plants are on the invasive plant species from the Morton Arboretum and the purple loosestrife is banned for the state of Illinois.

We will again set up a table for Collectors' or Specialty Plants. This will give a display area for those hard to find or unique varieties.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the April meeting for both the members' sale and the nursery plants' sale. We really need your help to make the sale a success!

## Need a Specific Plant?

We tried a request list last year but did not begin early enough so if you would like to have a specific plant(s) please let Linda Allison know so it can be included in the next 2 newsletters. Members who have the plant(s) to share can bring them to the sale for you to purchase. We can designate a specific area for requested items.

## Pots

Need pots? Do you have extra pots? Please let Linda Allison know. To avoid having members bring pots to the meetings and then take them home again we will try something new. I will include pot requests and those who have pots in the next 2 newsletters so you can get in touch with each other. Or if you want to leave pots on your drive for members to pick up, let me know or give an announcement at the meetings.

## Attention Photographers!

Don't forget to submit your photos of flowers and vegetables for the front of the 2012 Flower & Garden Show Guide. There will be a \$5.00 prize for the winning photo.

Photos should be high resolution and should feature a specific specimen rather than a pretty garden "scene." Preference will be given to photos that have the specimen identified. Photos should be emailed to Laurel as a .jpg by June 20th.

Any questions, contact Laurel.

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Plant requests for the  
Members' Plant Sale!!!

Let Linda know what you  
are looking for.

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## **Executive Board - 2012**

President ..... Betty Ference  
Vice-President (Programs) ..... Janice Gricus  
Secretary ..... Vicky Polito  
Treasurer..... Tom Campbell  
Past President..... Arup Bhuyan

## **Committee Chairs - 2012**

Correspondence ..... Carolyn Finzer  
Email List Moderator..... Eleanor Holt  
Flower and Garden Show..... Tom Campbell  
..... Barbara Jones  
Flower and Garden Show Guide .. Laurel LaLonde  
Harvest Banquet..... Janice Gricus,  
..... Vicky Polito & Mary Smedegard  
Historian ..... Carolyn Finzer

Membership..... JoAnn Monge  
Meeting Refreshments ..... Barb Bockman  
..... Angel Whitt  
Naper Settlement Gardens..... Eleanor Holt  
Newsletter..... Laurel LaLonde  
Newsletter Distribution..... Mary Wright  
Photography ..... Ron Ory  
Picnic Coordinators ..... Barbara Jones  
..... Laurel LaLonde  
Plant Sale ..... Bob Elvert  
Plant Sale-Members' Plants ..... Linda Allison  
Ogden Ave. Post Office Gardens ... Carolyn Finzer  
Publicity ..... Vicky Polito  
River Walk Clean Up/Gardens... Linda Thompson  
T-shirt Sales ..... Betty Ference  
Website..... Peter Klassen

## **2012 Refreshments**

A big thank-you to Randy Scheib and Eleanor Holt for the delicious refreshments at the February meeting.

Mar. 5	JoAnn Monge	Angel Whitt/Missy Lee
April 2	Wanda Wohead	Carolyn Finzer
May 7	Jim Canavan	Logan Wasson
June 4	Gail Butler	Judy Kanarek
July	<b>No meeting</b>	
Aug. 6	Vicky Polito	John Polich
Sept. 10	Jan Gricus	Pat Thompson
Oct. 1	<b>Garden Bounty Potluck</b>	
Nov.	<b>Harvest Banquet</b>	
Dec.	<b>No meeting</b>	

Due to fragrance allergies, your  
"fragrance free" attendance  
at meetings and club events  
is greatly appreciated.

## **Newsletter Submissions**

All newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of the month. Newsletter submissions should be typed in Microsoft Word, attached to an email, and sent to Laurel.

## **Naperville Community Gardeners February 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

*Submitted by Vicky Polito, Secretary*

Betty Ference called the meeting to order 7:05 p. Approximately 32 attending, 5 were guests.

Motion to approve January meeting minutes made and passed w/Secretary's apology for confusing Mary Wright w/ Mary Smedegard as co-chair for Harvest Banquet therein and promise for correction herein.

General announcements from Betty: annual member dues, \$20, due by Apr 1; annual picnic date set for June 30, Laurel still looking for member gardens for tour, pls contact her if you are willing; Richter Hosta Garden tour and sale set for July 21.

NCG's Knox Presbyterian Church "work day" being set up by Patty Thompson and NCG will be teamed with Boy Scouts for a day of work/planting of donated plants from our sale, probably in week following sale.

Vicky Polito confirmed that Knox leadership has agreed to put up a meeting announcement each month on their standard bulletin board, but not on the CCTV or in mailed bulletin.

Logan Wasson still to check six area schools regarding their horticulture programs and report back re: potential to make scholarship donations work as well as other ideas he's working on.

Discussion of ways to memorialize Ben Calvert: Ron Ory mentions that expenditures to be made by the park district on park trail signage in next several years may couple with a trail plaque for Ben, but that is down the road. Discussion of turning the Sweepstakes Award at the annual F&G Show into the Ben Calvert Award, with the addition of an actual ribbon for the award (in past was not a ribbon prize) met with much approval as something we can do immediately. Calvert family to be notified, involved if desired. Motion to re-brand/create this award and ribbon made and passed.

Bob Elvert says all is on target in terms of paperwork and planning for the May 12 Plant Sale. Onion sets to sell will be added this year. Bob contacting the park district re: pop up tents. Note storage locker is closed and tent poles scrapped for about \$25 added to our account. More logistics to come as date draws nearer.

Vicky mentions that members should email her or Jan Gricus with any restaurant ideas for Harvest Banquet, adding that we may return to a buffet brunch for this year.

Betty asks if anyone is interested in leading a seed sowing group, as in past. As there is a lack of interest, it will be skipped this year.

Also: Laurel alerts everyone to annual big sale at Menard's on Burpee seeds and the solid value of their seed warming pad; Angel Whitt's yard is in Mary Jane mag current issue; Nancy Carroll needs bud vases for her women's shelter projects—Tom Campbell will bring her some old F&G Show vases.

MINI-SHOW included a very pretty forced hyacinth in bloom brought in by Wanda Wohead.

Brian Bell and Peter Klassen did a spot-light presentation on the NCG website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35p for refreshments break, followed by program: "Winter Sowing," presented by Ellen Meyer, Master Gardener from U of I Extension.

**Your 2012 dues are now due. Dues are \$20.**

# Winter Sowing

*Submitted by Jan Gricus*

Ellen Meyer, U of I Extension Master Gardener, presented the idea of “Winter Sowing” to club members. This is an easy, painless, low-maintenance way to start a wide range of plants.

## Containers:

Using milk/water jugs, 2 liter pop bottles, deep aluminum roasting pans with plastic lids, etc. you make mini greenhouses (anything that holds at least 3 inches of soil). Cut the jug nearly in half, leaving a hinge at the handle. Cut 6 to 7 drainage slits in the bottom. Fill the container with 3 to 4 inches of good quality potting soil (not seed starting mix) without fertilizer. Soak and let drain.

## Seeds:

Select hardy annuals, perennials, veggies, herbs, grasses, trees and shrubs that either require a cold chilling period to break dormancy or those which can tolerate cold. Read seed packet for clues like: needs pre-chilling, needs stratification, self sows, sow outdoors in early Autumn, sow outdoors in early Spring.

## Planting:

Plant seeds to depth shown on seed package. At opposite end of handle, punch a hole on top and bottom, close with a twist tie and seal with tape (or snap on lid). Label the container with a paint pen and keep a list inside. Do not put cap on jugs. If using clear lid, cut several air slits on top. Place container OUTSIDE in partial sunlight.

## Care:

Containers can and should be exposed to snow, ice and rain. Allow Mother Nature to take care of moisture needs until it becomes too warm. The container has adequate moisture when condensation forms inside. If not evident, gently water from above or set container in a pan of water to water from below. After seeds sprout and have multiple sets of true leaves, prepare garden bed and plant. It's OK to plant a “Hunk of Seedlings.” These seedlings do not need ‘hardening off,’ but, like all plants, may need ‘critter protection.’

Small sampling of what to sow: snapdragons, sweet peas, flowering tobacco, pansy, asclepias, echinacea, heuchera, foxglove, lupine, alliums, beets, cucurbits, lettuces, peppers, spinach, tarragon, fennel, lavender, basil, thyme, etc.

Please check out the website [www.wintersown.org](http://www.wintersown.org) for an **extensive** list of plants (16 pages of just perennials !!) You will seriously be amazed at the list of plants suitable for this technique.

Ellen suggests that you begin sowing seeds each year on December 21<sup>st</sup> -- the Winter Solstice. Do at least four containers:

For Remembrance – plant a favorite plant of a family member or friend who passed away.

For Life – plant a flower that will feed the hummingbirds.

For Mother Nature – plant a native shrub or perennial for pollinators/wildlife.

For Faith – plant something normally grown in Zone 6.

You can sow seeds this method in December, January, February, early March. Can start again in July with kale and other cool season crops. Can re-use milk jugs. Just rinse out...no need to sterilize.

Easy, breezy.....SUCCESSFUL !!! Have fun.