



Naperville Community Gardeners

May 2012

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

Annual Plant Sale - May 12th

Set Up/Plant Drop-off - Friday, May 11 - 4 p.m. till 7 p.m.

Sale - Saturday, May 12 - 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Things to do for the plant sale:

- Divide your perennials and pot them up for the Members' Plants at the sale.
Need pots? Contact Linda Allison.
- Seed starters - don't forget to harden your plants off before the sale.
- Provide information about number of plants, variety, color, bloom time, sun/shade/water requirements, etc. on the form in the newsletter (page 5) or get a paper copy at the May meeting. Send form to Linda Allison by noon on Wednesday, May 9th. A plant label will be waiting for you when you deliver your plants to the sale on Friday, May 11th.
- Sign up for a work shift for either set-up on Friday or the sale on Saturday. All members are required to work a shift.
- Wear your name tag to the sale. JoAnn will bring the box of name tags to the sale. If you have yours at home, be sure to wear it.
- Wear your NCG t-shirt if you have one.

Upcoming Dates:

April 28	Workday at Knox
May 12	Plant Sale
June 4	Meeting & Program: "Rain Gardens"
June 20	Deadline for Show Guide photos
June 30	Member garden tours/picnic
July 21	Garden Walk @ John Richter's in Warrenville
August 6	Meeting & Program
August 18	Flower & Garden Show
Sept. 10	Meeting & Program
October 1	Garden Bounty Potluck & program
November	Harvest Banquet - no meeting
December	No meeting

Next Meeting

Monday
May 7, 2012

7 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian
Church

"Project Budburst"

presented by
Kayri Havens, Ph.D.

Kayri Havens, Ph.D., is Director of the Division of Plant Science and Conservation at the Chicago Botanic Garden. She will tell us about Project Budburst which is an initiative to track climate change by recording the timing of leafing and flowering of flowers and foliage. Learn how you can be a part of that team by being a citizen scientist.

New Members

A warm welcome to new member Renee Schell.

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 Laurie Hogrewe and Carolyn Finzer for the delicious refreshments at the April meeting.

Refreshment Volunteers:

May 7	Jim Canavan	Logan Wasson
June 4	Gail Butler	Judy Kanarek
July	No meeting	
Aug. 6	Vicky Polito	John Polich
Sept. 10	Jan Gricus	Pat Thompson
Oct. 1	Garden Bounty Potluck	
Nov.	Harvest Banquet	
Dec.	No meeting	

Ben Calvert Sweepstakes Award

The club recently voted to name the Flower Show Sweepstakes Award after Ben Calvert. I'm collecting info/memories about Ben's participation in the club to go into the show guide. Please email any memories you might have that would be appropriate for this tribute.

Thanks,
Barbara Jones

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

Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, April 2, 2012

Betty Ference called the meeting to order 7:05 p. Approximately 29 attending, 2 guests.

Motion to approve March meeting minutes made and approved.

General announcements from Betty: annual member dues period now closed; COD plant sales, see emails to NCG from Carolyn Finzer; Conservation Foundation annual \$100/plate Earth Day Benefit Dinner slated for Apr 19th, see CF website for info.

Patty Thompson has a wish-list from Knox Presbyterian Church for sedums, etc. She will give list to Laurel LaLonde for inclusion in newsletter. She is coordinating planting effort by NCG partnered with Boy Scouts for a day in first half of May. Church is also having a sale on May 12th.

Ollie Burrows and Nick Papadolias brought in Canna tubers for NCG members to take and pot up for NCG sale.

Ron Ory reported that \$500 from NCG gets a nice tree with commemorative plaque at base in honor of Ben Calvert adjacent to the native plants garden at garden plots. Motion to go ahead with that plan made and approved. Details to follow. Also, the rain garden at plots going in on Apr 21st.

Betty put out a survey form to assess if a change to meeting structure is desired, basically a yea or nay on refreshments and/or options to change order of program and club business segments of meeting. Members can fill out form and leave it with her at meeting or email response to Betty. Betty asks group to consider the value of changing the by-laws to have the election of officers and committee chairs in June rather than October, to allow more time for turn-over and planning for following year. In theory elections would take place in June, but roles would still be assumed the following January.

Note River Walk mulching is slated for 8a on Sat, Apr. 21st. Volunteers should come with shovels, wheel barrows, etc. to help.

Mini-show: Angel Whitt has 11 successful "milk jug" seeding efforts; brought quail eggs for the taking; successfully seeded tri-colored mini sweet peppers from some she bought as groceries last year. Eleanor Holt showed a pretty orchid she'd purchased from Trader Joe's. Another member did the milk-jug technique in ground with great success for tomato seedlings. Carolyn Finzer showed off some recycling of old silk flower petals as appliques for her overalls and mentioned that she and Jan had cleaned up the old post-office garden. Nancy Carroll showed us gorgeous spring bulb blooms and some real cherry blossom and dogwood branches in bloom, recommending dogwood as a good under-story in our growing zone. Carolyn shared that the Cherry Blossom Festival in DC this year was fun. Peter Klassen said people were welcome to visit his garden as spring is here.

Bob Elvert spoke on the Plant Sale for May 12th: all paperwork is done; volunteer sheets are going around for F, Sat morning, Sat closing; insurance is being paid; pop-up tents are on tap; order to Shaeffer's is in and Bob and others will visit and fine tune during 1st week of May. Members should begin planning and digging their own plants soon, coordinate with Linda for tags. Eleanor is doing a pre-sale email blast to prior customers. All advertising is in place in local media. The Park District will co-sale leftover trees with NCG again this year. Logan Wasson has the Master Gardeners table set. Patty is working with the Scouts for the "plant sitting" on Friday night. Bob wants to donate some old canvases from our old tent to the Scouts, but we'll keep 1 or 2. Laurel suggests a Facebook page for NCG and members are asked to mention the sale via their own FB and other social networking. All plant donation label requests need to be in the Wednesday before the sale (May 9th) and label making party will be that day. Arrangement of plant tables will be Friday the 11th at 4p. Saturday at 6a last minute in-takes of donation plants and set-up will occur. Linda distributing the label form in the newsletter. An attempt to organize pricing per table will be made. The "collector's corner" will happen. Patty is asking that people clean up and remove planters being given away outside church doors at the end of a given night because they become debris when not taken away.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40p, followed by refreshment break and program on "Planting for Pollinators", presented by Gareth Blakesley, Natural Resources Director at Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens in Palos Heights.

Submitted by Vicky Polito

April 2, 2012 Speaker's Presentation

Gareth Blakesley, Natural Resources Director of Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Garden in Palos Heights, IL and creator of the Illinois Dragonfly Monitoring Network, gave a talk on the importance of creating a habitat for pollinators. Without pollinators, there would be no food. While bees are champion pollinators, many other animals make the reproduction of flowering plants possible. Bats, birds, butterflies, insects and mammals all play an important role. The flower offers the animal a floral reward – usually nectar or pollen – and the animal inadvertently moves the pollen within a flower or from flower to flower. This often unseen and generally underappreciated ecosystem service is responsible for the reproduction of nearly 80% of all flowering plants and brings us an estimated 1 out of every 3 bites of food we consume. You live in a world of pollinators – conserve and celebrate them!

The majority of the large and diverse natural habitats that once existed in the U.S. have been lost or fragmented into small pockets. Home landscapes with broad expanses of sterile lawns and non-native plants have nothing to offer pollinators.

What can you do? You can create little habitats in your backyards. Pollinators need food, water and shelter. Plant some native trees, shrubs, perennials, ferns, forbs, etc. in your yard. Plant native plants that pollinators recognize and will frequent. Many 'new and improved' varieties are shunned by pollinators. Plant natives in large groups so pollinators don't have to search far for the next flower. Leave some leaf litter in your garden beds for insects and butterflies to overwinter. Leave some weeds in your grass. Dandelions and clover are excellent food sources for pollinators. If possible, have a small area devoted to a twig pile as shelter. Provide water at various levels...on the ground and on stands.

How will you know if you've succeeded? Go out in your garden on a sunny midday. Stop and close your eyes. If you hear the buzz, click, chirp and hum of pollinators, you'll know that YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Talk to your neighbors about what you plant and why and encourage them to do the same. Backyard by backyard, neighborhood by neighborhood, gardeners adding native plants to the landscape can create stepping stones connecting formerly isolated habitat islands. Biologists call these 'wildlife corridors' and they're critical for species to find the food, shelter and breeding opportunities they need to thrive. Every backyard, no matter how small, becomes part of the solution.

If you absolutely must use chemicals in your yard, use them responsibly. **READ THE LABEL – it's your legal duty**. Use only on plants mentioned on the label. Spray early in the morning or later in the day when bees are not out. **DO NOT SPRAY FLOWERS.**

Other sources of information are: www.pollinator.org, The Xerces Society, MonarchWatch.org, Wildlife Habitat Council, Bat Conservation International (www.batcon.org), The Conservation Foundation, American Beekeeping Federation, Douglas Tallamy's book: *Bringing Nature Home*.

Gareth has donated his speaker's fee to Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens so The Naperville Community Gardeners' Club will be listed as a donor.

The speaker for the May 7th meeting is Dr. Kayri Havens regarding Project Budburst. The May/June 2012 issue of *Chicagoland Gardening* magazine has an article on Project Budburst. If anyone gets newsletter emails from Gardener's Supply catalog www.gardeners.com, their April newsletter also has an article on Project Budburst. Are we cutting edge or what!!

Submitted by Jan Gricus

NCG Member Plant Sale – Donation Form 2012

Please list the name and variety of the plant, sun/shade requirements, color, height/spread, bloom time, number of plants being donated, anything that would help with growing the plant.

You can send your lists of plants to be donated for the sale at any time. Even if you dig up more plants later this will help with spreading out the label making. You can always send me more lists of plants.

No. _____ Name: _____

No. _____ Name: _____

No. _____ Name: _____

No. _____ Name: _____

No. _____ Name: _____

No. _____ Name: _____

No. _____ Name: _____

No. _____ Name: _____

Plants donated by: _____

Mail or email to Linda Allison