



# NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENERS

January, 2013

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

## NEXT MEETING

**Monday, January 7, 2013**

**7 p.m.**

**Knox Presbyterian Church**

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**Speaker: Carol Shelby**

**Master Gardener since 1990, U of I Extension, Naperville**

**Topic: Garden Design**

Since her father helped her earn a Girl Scout merit badge in gardening, Carol Shelby has been an avid gardener and has passed on her love of gardening to others, especially by educating children. She led other Master Gardeners to design and establish historical gardens at Graue Mill and Museum. With a BS in Art, Design, and Metal Smithing, Carol has an artist's eye for composition and color and incorporates native plants into her designs.

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings NCG Members. January is literally around the corner and with it, a new gardening year. I have already received many seed catalogs and look forward to going through them once the hectic Christmas season is but a memory. All things are possible in the planning stage, we will get enough rain in 2013, the weather will be perfect, and our gardens will flourish! At least that's my New Year's wish for all of us.

I hope you enjoyed the speakers I arranged for 2012. If you noticed, the theme leaned heavily toward planting natives and plants that attract and sustain native wildlife. So many of our pollinators are in trouble due to reduced habitat so whatever we can plant to help them along will be a good thing. I, too, can't resist a "new and improved" cultivar, but often it's been bred for different characteristics so the plant is no longer beneficial to our beneficial insects. I make sure to temper those effects by planting a few extra natives. A good resource for what to plant is the website [www.bringingnaturehome.net](http://www.bringingnaturehome.net) which lists trees and perennials along with the number of insects they support. The clover in my grass supports 115 native insects! Thinking of planting a tree? An oak supports 534 beneficial insects while a redbud supports 19 (but that's still better than zero). Don't mean to preach, just asking you to give natives a chance to do their jobs.

I know Mark has lined up great speakers for next year and I look forward to learning new things from all of them.

Our first meeting for the year is January 7, 2013. Remember that the membership voted in October to change the structure of our meetings. The Executive Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. to conduct Club business. All members are welcome to attend. The meeting for general membership will start at 7:00 p.m. and will include any member voting issues, announcements, mini show and raffle. Refreshments will begin at about 7:15. The speaker's presentation will run from about 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.. This new schedule should enable everyone to get home a little earlier.

**Tip of the Month:** Now is the time for Winter Sowing! Clean out those gallon milk jugs and start some seeds. Per Master Gardener Ellen Meyer, sow seeds on the Winter Solstice in memory of someone or something. Go to [www.wintersown.org](http://www.wintersown.org) for complete instructions and the list of hundreds of plants that can be started this way.

See you in 2013.

Jan Gricus

**PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT SURVEY ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**

**NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENERS HARVEST BANQUET SURVEY, 2012**

*[Please complete and return anytime from December 2012 through February 2013!]*

1. Which of the below do you favor for our end of year event in November? Please rate AT LEAST your top TWO choices by numbering them "1" and "2", etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ No event at all

\_\_\_\_\_ Daytime gathering at restaurant , *also circle whichever apply:* Weekday – Saturday -- Sunday

\_\_\_\_\_ Evening gathering at restaurant , *also circle whichever apply:* Weekday – Saturday -- Sunday

\_\_\_\_\_ Event held during a Monday evening at Knox IF POSSIBLE (pls also see question #5, below)

2. If you feel such an event should continue, do you have suggestions for modifications to or substitutions for the traditional Harvest Banquet? Please give us any ideas you have regarding changes or alternate celebrations:

3. If you have seldom or never attended a banquet, please share why—is it cost, time/day held, etc.?

4. Do you have any SPECIFIC suggestions on venues at which to hold future banquets—one of the main tasks of organizing the banquet is the "where" piece--a good tip on a local restaurant is always welcome and useful!

5. If the event could be held on a Monday night at Knox, with a simple catered meal (i.e., sandwiches, pizza, or chili), followed by a DIY project, would this interest you more or less than the banquet? If you would be interested in a group DIY project, can you give ideas for specific projects you would enjoy?

6. Please feel free to tell us whatever else is on your mind regarding our annual end of year event —the goal is simply and always to give as many members as possible an experience they would enjoy. What do you think would get us to that goal?

*SUBMITTED BY (optional):* \_\_\_\_\_

You may return this survey either via email to Mary Smedegard or by printing it out and turning it in via a drop-box that will be available at both the January and February 2013 meetings. If you can't make it, pass it to a friend or send it to: NCG, PO Box 9555, Naperville, IL 60567-9555 (pls note this box is checked fairly infrequently, but surveys sent here will eventually be passed to Mary—the sooner you send your form in, the better, though).

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT—it goes a long way to help the club be better with every year!***

