



NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENERS

January 2014

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

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 6

7 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

SPEAKER: Karla Marino

TOPIC: Plan Ahead—Converting to a Low Maintenance Garden in 2014

Karla Marino has been an independent landscape design consultant since 2008 with Zone 5 Horticulture, her company. Working for Hinsdale Nurseries, from 2005 until 2008, she was the maintenance manager for over 100 homes in the Hinsdale/Oak Brook/Western Springs/Burr Ridge area and from 2000 until 2004, a landscape designer/salesperson. She credits this variety of experience with giving her a sensitivity to clients' expectations, helping them to identify and achieve their goals.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings! Hard to believe that our November Harvest Banquet wasn't so very long ago! For those unable to attend, it was a warm evening with good food, laughter, and some fun trivia contests. It's something to look forward to in 2014!

Before looking ahead to 2014, let's look at the highlights in 2013. We had monthly, evening meetings that included captivating speakers, snacks, and socializing.

We made a significant scholarship donation to the College of DuPage. Some of their horticulture students have achieved national recognition in competitions, and we are supporting their dedication.

We held our signature event – the annual plant sale before Mother's Day that the community eagerly anticipates. Among the many tasks, some of our dedicated members grow and contribute unique plants, treasured by knowing buyers.

Our Garden Tour and Picnic was fun. If you haven't figured it out yet, gardeners prepare good food and enjoy sharing it.

A visit to the Ball Gardens in West Chicago - it's like Charlie visiting Willie Wonka's Chocolate factory. Marvelous things to see and paths to explore.

We held our annual Flower and Garden Show at the Barn. Our members really shine with their entries. By participating, you become attuned to how the judges regard plants and appreciate nature and beauty even more.

We picked apples on three occasions that included pot luck barbeques. Hundreds of bushel baskets worth were donated to the local food bank. And the ones we brought home were delicious.

At the Naperville Garden Plots, our Master Gardeners and members grew tons of food for the food bank and found even more on Gleaning Day. The Sensory Garden was designed, hardscaped, and filled with plants. It takes tremendous dedication to keep plants watered and healthy, and doing this together is gratifying.

So how about 2014? Whether you grow a few plants on a windowsill or tend a large vegetable garden, we are a Club that welcomes each other and enjoys sharing our enthusiasm. I encourage you in 2014 to include yourself in many of these activities which will increase your enjoyment. And let's continue bringing visitors! Our evening meetings are more flexible than many other clubs that meet in the day.

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I especially want to thank past president and Master Gardener, Jan Gricus, who has done a great job and provides a model for me as the new president. She knows I will be asking for her gracious assistance!

And Treasurer and Flower and Garden Show Chairman, Tom Campbell, who with family will be exploring new eco-systems in Seattle, WA. It's amazing how much Tom gets done! We will honor him by having another wonderful show. Tom, can we get your spreadsheet to track ribbons won and participation?!

Unlike the seeds in the ground, we are not dormant in the winter. Happy New Year, and see you soon.

Mark Mayszak



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DATES OF 2014 MEETINGS

Knox Presbyterian Church has once again graciously given us the use of a meeting room for the coming year. Here are the dates for our Monday meetings:

January 6
February 3
March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2
July: No meeting
August 4
September 8
October 6
November: No meeting
December: No meeting

SEEDS, SEEDS, SEEDS

Now that the Holidays are behind us, we can focus on important things...like gardening!

WINTER SOWING - It's time to plant up and put out your milk jugs! If you don't remember how it's done, check out the following websites:

www.wintersown.org or

www.agardenforthehouse.com or if you type in "winter sowing" in your search engine, you will see lots of other websites that will help you with this amazing, no-maintenance way to start a myriad of seeds.

Please contact me if you would like to talk about the process. Last year I had 57 containers on my patio...who's going to top me?? I'll bring a sample to January's meeting.

INDOOR SEED STARTING GROUP - For those who prefer to start seeds indoors, I will be happy to head up the efforts. In years past, a group of us started seeds indoors for our Plant Sale. We did not do that last year and consequently did not have as much to sell and had to disappoint some customers. Please let me know if you are interested in participating. If you don't have seeds left over from last year, the big box stores will soon be selling them. The average last frost date for northern Illinois is April 25th but that means there's a 50% chance of frost after that. So, cautious gardeners should use Mother's Day as the target date. Seed packets usually tell you when to start indoors...like 6 or 8 or 12 weeks prior to the last frost. Use a separate calendar to make notes and count back from May 11, the number of weeks suggested. That is the date to plant that seed indoors. We can meet at my house and I'll show you what I have set up in terms of lights, space, timers, fans, etc. We can share seeds, talk about what works for us, what doesn't and hopefully have lots to sell at our Plant Sale on May 10th. Come to learn and come to share your knowledge.

We have the perfect customer base with 550 garden plots adjacent to our plant sale location. Let's give them what they are looking for.

Let me know if you are interested. We can discuss plans at the February 3rd meeting, just in time for planting around February 15, which is 12 weeks prior to our target date and the time to plant Brussels sprouts, celeriac and celery.

Jan Gricus

OFFICERS.**NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENERS**

President: Mark Mayszak

Vice-President: Linda Thompson

Secretary: Rosemary Holdredge

Treasurer: Janice Gricus

Past President: Janice Gricus

Website:www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org**Our Mailing Address:**

Naperville Community Gardeners

P.O. Box 9555

Naperville, IL 60567-9555

Meeting Refreshment Committee, 2014**Cricket Cressman, Chairman**

January 6: Randy Scheib and Jan Gricus
 February 3: Lana Gernady and Mary Smedegard
 March 3: Eleanor Holt and Bob Elvert
 April 7: Linda Allison and Freda Haller
 June 2: Rosemary Holdredge and JoAnn Monge
 May: Barb Bockman and Jim Canavan
 July: PICNIC
 August 4: Vicky Polito and Judy Kanarek
 September 8: Pat Thompson and John Cressman
 October 6: HARVEST POT LUCK
 November: GARDEN CLUB BANQUET
 December: NO MEETING



Arapaho National Park,
Callahan Photography Galleries

At the garden club banquet some of the participants in the garden trivia quiz asked where the 5,000-year-old bristlecone pine was located. According to Wikipedia:

“A specimen of *Pinus longaeva* (bristlecone pine) located in the White Mountains of California was measured by Tom Harlan to be 5,062 years old in 2012. The identity of the specimen is being kept secret by Harlan. This is the oldest known tree in North America, and the oldest known individual tree in the world, although a clonal individual nicknamed “Old Tjikko,” a Norway spruce in Sweden, is 9,550 years old.”

Another interesting factoid in the article says that another bristlecone pine in the same area died hundreds of years ago, but is still standing and is used to identify the ages of other trees from its rings.

Rosemary Holdredge

***Holiday Lights Recycling!***

Lights accepted include: Italian mini-lights, traditional lights, extension cords, rope lights, LED lights. Lights can be in working or non working condition, from any holiday!

Naperville Park District:

Riverwalk Community Center, 305 W. Jackson

Central Shop/Barn, 421 W. Martin

Springbrook Golf Course, 2220 83rd Street