



# NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENERS

May 2014

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

## NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, May 5

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Speaker:

Karen Thomson

"Topiaries"

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I write this note on Earth Day, April 22, it amazes me that after a few warm days, the record winter is becoming a distant memory, despite the snow a week ago.... Snow and crocuses, I recognize. Snow and daffodils? How is it that five months of bitter cold and deep, pervasive snow can fade from memory so quickly?

The biologist Edward O. Wilson coined the term "biophilia" which means the love of life or living systems. Human beings are attracted to what is alive and vital and to the connection between living things. That is my explanation for the way we block out the past winter and cherish the sun and green shoots coming up. And I have heard that people whose existence depends on the land are more spiritual than those who are not connected to it.

My seedlings for the plant sale have been progressing under the nearly nonstop grow lights that give my windows a unique glow. They were started a few weeks late, but should be ready. Fingers crossed.

The Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale - may the day be warm and persuade many to dig and plant the whole long day. There is a great love of life waiting to express itself with the plants we sell. May we have an ideal day for the sale, and may our customers be happy and excited. Perhaps some new members will find us. Please volunteer as much as you can to make the sale successful, to connect with each other, and to celebrate Mother Earth before Mother's Day.

## PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 10

7:30—12:30

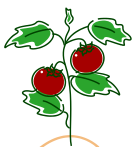
## GARDEN PLOTS

WEST STREET

*We need the participation of every member to make the sale a success.*

***Spread the word!***

Mark Mayszak





## MINUTES FOR April 7, 2014, MEETING

The April meeting of the Naperville Community Gardeners was opened by Mark Mayszak at 7:05 p.m. There was one visitor, Allison Snell, a horticulture teacher at the College of DuPage.

### **Old Business**

Mark asked if there were any changes to the January minutes. Marty Kraus moved to approve minutes and was seconded by Bob Elvert. The motion was carried.

**Treasurer's Report.** Jan Gricus has paid the insurance of \$500, which covers the plant sale. There is a total of \$14,551.81 in our accounts.

**Plant Sale.** Bob Elvert announced the club plant sale will be held on May 10. Overnight arrangements have been set. He is taking special orders from members tonight and asked members to sign up for a shift. He asked people to bring chairs, refreshments, and cardboard containers. Carolyn Finzer rescued a large sign from the post office and will repaint it for the plant sale. Bob has yard signs and will bring them to the next meeting. Linda Allison needs to hear from members about the plants they plan to bring. People are needed to unload plants on Friday; the sale will officially open at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Ron Ory announced that he has contacted the Boy Scouts and they will use work in the Idea Garden at the garden plots for Eagle Scout projects.

### **New Business**

Vicki Polito is taking orders for tee shirts, bags, and magnetic name badges. Prices for individual items will depend on the total amount ordered, except for the badges, which are \$8.00 each.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Following refreshments, Allen Cosnow gave a demonstration of fruit tree grafting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Holdredge  
Secretary

**2014 NCGC Plant Sale**

**Saturday MAY 10th 7:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**SETUP - Friday May 9th - Noon - 6:00 pm**

**Volunteers are needed for both/ either day**

**Sign UP Sheets - available at May 5 meeting**

**Participation - the KEY to another Successful Sale**

**This is our Club's primary fundraising event, and it is vital that all available members participate in any of the many open opportunities on both Friday the 9th and Saturday the 10th.**

**Be sure to sign up at the May meeting.**

**Bob Elvert**

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**PLANT DONATION FORMS**

**Attached to this newsletter is the form for listing member donations to the plant sale. So that tags are ready for the sale, Linda Allison would like to have this information as soon as possible. Her committee will meet on May 7 to complete the tags.**

**Because of this strange spring, you may find yourself digging at the last minute. Never fear: you can make tags when you bring your plants to the sale. Plant donation forms will also be available at the May 5 meeting if you want to make them out that night and give them to Linda.**

## NCG Member Plant Sale – Donation Form 2014

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.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plants donated by \_\_\_\_\_

## UPDATE FROM RON ORY

Just a followup on a couple thoughts about the Idea Gardens:

\* Three boy scouts stopped by on Apr 19th to learn about potential Eagle Scout Projects. I think all three will work on three separate projects. This is the result of Linda Thompson's help in putting me in touch with a scout leader.

\* I'm planning on a planting day of **Saturday, May 3rd** to install much of the prairie, savanna and sedge meadow. I may also have the rocks to line the paths. I won't be certain till the materials are delivered.



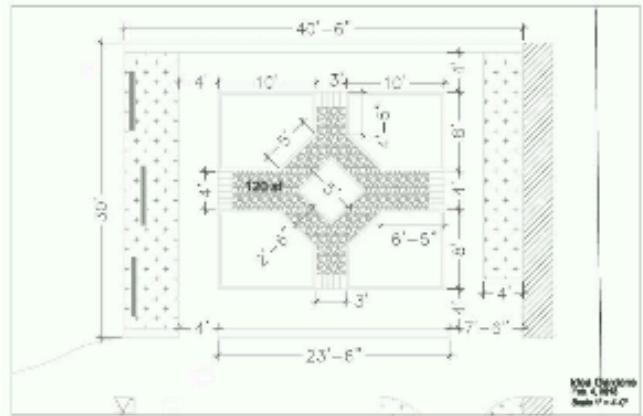
### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

#### Executive Board—2014

President.....Mark Mayszak  
 Vice-President.....Linda Thompson  
 Secretary.....Rosemary Holdredge  
 Treasurer.....Janice Gricus  
 Past President.....Janice Gricus

#### Committee Chairs - 2014

Correspondence .....Carolyn Finzer  
 Email List Moderator.....Eleanor Holt  
 Facebook Page .....OPEN  
 Flower and Garden Show.....Vicky Polito  
 Flower and Garden Show Guide.....Vicky Polito  
 Harvest Banquet ..... OPEN  
 Historian .....Carolyn Finzer  
 Membership.....JoAnn Monge  
 Meeting Refreshments.....Cricket Cressman  
 Mini-Show.....Angel Whitt  
 Naper Settlement Gardens.....Pat Thompson  
 Newsletter.....Eleanor Holt  
 Newsletter Distribution.....Mary Wright  
 Photography.....Ron Ory  
 Picnic/Garden Walk.....Betty Ference  
 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.....Bob Elvert  
 T-shirt Sales .....Vicky Polito  
 Website.....Peter Klassen



### Stay in Touch

Visit our website: [napervillecommunitygardeners.org](http://napervillecommunitygardeners.org).

Send us mail"

Naperville Community Gardeners  
 P.O. Box 9555  
 Naperville, IL 60567

## SEEDS, SEEDS, SEEDS, Part 4

Unbelievably we are in the home stretch now. Only two weeks before the plant sale!!!

While my green pepper seedlings are still on the puny side, I'll have 40 pots of burpless cucumbers which are happily getting bigger each day. I also have 5 pots of Italian squash and the same of heirloom Boston Marrow squash. I'll have 20 pots of Swiss chard and the same of Asclepias tuberosa for the Monarch butterflies.

I did lose some lettuce due to damping off and Mary Smedegard reminded me that milled sphagnum moss sprinkled on the top of newly planted pots helps to reduce damping off. Thanks, Mary.

Your seedlings will need to be "hardened off" prior to the plant sale. Hardening off is the term used to describe the gradual acclimation of plants to outdoor conditions. Hardening off can be accomplished by gradual exposure to outdoor wind and light conditions. Put them in the shade for a couple of days, but if the nights will be cold, bring them in at night. After a few days in the shade, move them to increasingly sunnier spots every few days. Be prepared to either cover or bring indoors if the overnight temperatures will be low. A cold frame is a nice sheltered place to harden off seedlings. A low-cost pop-up version works well. After a week to 10 days, the hardened-off plants should be ready for planting.

Don't forget to give Linda Allison information on your plants. The seed packet probably has the best description....after all, you bought it based on what you read!

### WINTER SOWING UPDATE -

It is amazing what a difference a month makes. A whopping 58 out of 70 jugs have sprouted!! In fact, pak choy, spinach and poppies have already been planted in the Idea Garden at the garden plots. Kale is ready to go and will be planted at the Master Gardener plots soon after the April 26th opening day. I'll save some for our plant sale.

Let me know at May's meeting what you grew. We can celebrate our successes and cry over our failures. Then I hope to hear you finish the following sentence – "Next year, I'll....."

Jan Gricus



**Be on hand for the best plant sale ever—**

**Saturday, May 10**