



NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENERS

March 2016

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

President's Letter

Meeting: Monday, March 7

7 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

1105 Catalpa Lane

"The Importance of Farm to Table"

presented by

**Dale Lewis, Sovereign Restaurant,
Plainfield**

Dale Lewis is the creative director of this new restaurant which exemplifies the "farm to fork" philosophy. He will discuss the use of locally sourced ingredients, protein and produce which taste like the food that we remember from years ago.

We will learn not only how to make the best use of our own garden produce but also how to support local farms and businesses.



(Print borrowed from Conservation Foundation promotion; see page 4.)

Gardening season is picking up speed. It is about time to start seeds indoors. The average last frost date is now calculated to be May 5th but can be as late as May 20th. I understand the garden plots will be ready about April 22nd.

Some plants such as onions can be planted as early as 4 to 6 weeks before the frost-free date, while it is better to wait until June for more sensitive plants such as cantaloupe. Of course our plant sale is on May 7th. If you estimate it takes about 6 to ten weeks for seedlings to be ready to sell or to transplant into the ground, then it is about time to start seedlings inside shortly after you read this newsletter.

I want to thank Jan Gricus for hosting our club's seed starters at her home on Saturday, February 20th. Coffee and food were served, seeds and knowledge shared. Whether you were there or not, your contributions to the club's plant sale are still welcome. In addition to seedlings, plants dug and potted have been popular items in past years.

We have had some discussion about selling refreshments at the plant sale. It is a possibility since Illinois has a Cottage Food law that allows individuals or groups to sell home baked goods. If someone would be interested in taking this on as a project for our plant sale this year, I can provide some guidance on how to proceed. Let me know.

Can you believe 60 degrees in the middle of February?! It looks like those experts who predicted a mild winter were correct. If you have fruit trees this can really be a problem if it causes early flowering and then we have a late frost/freeze. If anyone would like to come to the meeting prepared to speak for a few minutes on what effect mild weather followed by cold temperatures has on various types of plants, please let me know and I will allow some time during the business meeting for this subject.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 7th and our speaker will be Dale Lewis from Sovereign Farm-Fork-Craft speaking on the importance of Farm to Table. Barbara Bozek has done a great job on the meeting programs. I am looking forward to seeing everyone on March 7th.

Rod Beary

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM

Attendance: Jan Gricus, Rod Beary, Barbara Bozek, Mark Mayszak, Judy Kanarek, Eleanor Holt

Rod Beary and Jan Gricus discussed having a get-together for members to share seeds and start plants early to donate to the plant sale. It will be held on February 20th at Jan's house. Rod also suggested getting plant labels when the seeds are planted instead of waiting until the plant sale.

Rod suggest that for a program this year, perhaps several members could give short presentations on gardening. Barb Bozek mentioned that she has lined up speakers for the remainder of the year and presented her list. Rod proposed that he could do a short presentation during the meetings. Rod said that he called the Health Department to see if we can sell food at the plant sale and was waiting for a response.

Meeting Minutes

Three guests were welcomed to the meetings.

Jan reported that the current bank balance is \$8,740.06. She requested a vote to approve the budget for this year. A motion was made by Eleanor Holt and seconded by Brian Bell. The budget was approved. A motion was made by Eleanor Holt and seconded by Mark Mayszak to approve the minutes from the January meeting.

Rod asked, with a show of hands, what types of plants members are interested in growing, including flowers, vegetables, exotics, fruits, espaliers, and grasses. He also mentioned providing a short program during some of the meetings of this year.

Barb Bozek shared with the members all of the programs scheduled for the remainder of this year:

March 7	The Importance of Farm to Table—Dale Lewis (Sovereign Farm—Fork—Craft, Plainfield)
April 4	Right Plant, Right Place—The Growing Place
May 2	Plants You Should Know—Jeff Gibson, Ball Gardens

July	No meeting—annual picnic
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August 1	Enjoying Your Garden—Nina Koziol, free-lance writer for the Chicago Tribune (with a follow-up option to view her garden, possible field trip)
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September 12	The Why and How To Saving Seeds—Vicki Nowiki of Liberty Gardens*
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October 3	Many Ways of Preserving Your Bounty—Paul Virant of Vie restaurant, possible book signing
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November	Annual Banquet
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* Vicki Nowicki recommends that anyone interested should sign up for the Seed Saving Orientation being held in Downers Grove on April 2nd. It is free, but people must register because low attendance may cause this to be canceled.

Bob Elvert reminded interested members to sign up for preorders on plants for the plant sale. The setup for the plant sale will start at noon on Friday. New plant sale signs will be painted sometime in March or April. We have 30 signs to distribute.

Mary Smedegard announced that Wannemaker's in Downers Grove on Ogden Avenue is having a Spring Garden Show on March 5th and 6th offering free seminars on gardening topics.

Jan will host a seed-starting meeting at her house on February 20th for members to share seeds to start planting early for the sale.

Mini Show—Rod Beary brought a tall Amaryllis bearing pink and white flowers. He also had Maxibel bush beans to share. Terry Pilz contributed a hummingbird feeder which was raffled. Rosemary Stelter contributed tulip bulbs which were also raffled off. Rich and Lana Gernady showed us a beautiful planted pot that included tulips, hyacinths, maricissus, muscari, and crocuses.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Elvert and seconded by Patti Thomson.

Presentation

Michele Hickey of The Resiliency Institute presented a talk on Permaculture Zones. The basis of choosing the correct zones in our yards depends on the number of times we need to visit the plant, animal, or structure, and the number of times it needs us to visit it, based on the distance from our homes, which makes gardening more efficient.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Kanarek, Acting Secretary

NCGC 2016 Plant Sale - May 7, 2016

2016 NCGC Plant Sale

When - Saturday May 7, 2016

Where - Ron Ory Community Gardens

What to Bring - Yourself, gardening expertise to share, and a need to socialize

This is not only the primary moneymaker for the club, but it is also the biggest social event, so be sure to have your calendar blocked out for both Friday May 6th afternoon for setup AND Saturday May 7th for the Sale.

As one of our goals this year is to expand pre-sale notification, we plan on sending out two multiple notifications to past customers, one in March to renew their interest and a second as a pre-sale reminder. In addition, there will be more local media internet in an effort to reach a wider range of possible buyers. Also in April, we'll be looking at the possible newspaper advertising as well as a date to paint the sale signs.

As the initial order must be placed by mid-March, please let me know of any pre-sale orders you may have and any ideas to improve the sale experience. Please don't hesitate to contact me or the Board.

Bob Elvert- Plant Sale Chair



Lana Gernady shows the pot of spring flowering bulbs which she and Rich exhibited at the February meeting.

Thanks to everyone who brought items of interest.

We encourage everyone to bring a bit of brightness to these meetings.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

Executive Board—2015

President..... Rod Beary
 Vice-President.. ..Barbara Bozek
 Secretary.....Betty Ference
 Treasurer.....Janice Gricus
 Past President.....Mark Mayzak

Committee Chairs - 2015

CorrespondenceOPEN
 Email List Moderator.....Eleanor Holt
 Facebook PageOPEN
 Flower and Garden Show.....Vicky Polito
 Flower and Garden Show Guide.....Vicky Polito
 Harvest Banquet Gail Butler
 HistorianOPEN
 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.....JoAnn Monge
 Publicity.....Gloria Pollack
 River Walk Clean Up/Gardens.....Bob Elvert
 T-shirt SalesOPEN
 Website.....Peter Klassen

Website:

www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org

Mailing Address:

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

The Annual Flower and Garden Show: New Location

All gardeners please note: The 2016 NCG Flower and Vegetable Garden Show will be on Saturday, August 20th at an old-is-new-again location, The Alfred Rubin Riverwalk Community Center in downtown Naperville.

More info to come, including hours and guide info, volunteer sign up and selection of judges, etc. For now, please note the date in your calendars and here's hoping for a great and fun growing season and another successful show.

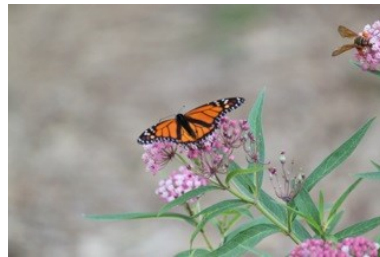
Any comments or questions regarding the show can be sent to me, Vicky Polito, at NCGflowershow@gmail.com. *Please feel free to share this notice as you see fit.*

Update on the Idea Gardens

Mel Konrath, a fellow Master Naturalist, has put together a buy list for this year's addition to the Idea Gardens. He's looking to diversify what now exists in the Rain Garden and add to other areas. So, we've ordered 214 plants to be installed sometime in May, once we get a delivery date. Perhaps some of the club members might be interested in helping plant.

Also, next month, should the weather permit, we will be cleaning up the area; this may be a short-notice opportunity for club members to exercise their gardening muscles before the season gets into full swing.

Ron Ory



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From The Conservation Foundation:

Please accept this invitation to attend our **Winter Membership & Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Westin Lombard.**

Our speaker will be **Jason Navota of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning**. As we enjoy an organic lunch, **Jason will talk to us about sustainable regional food systems**. These local food systems increase economic vitality, community livability, and regional resiliency. Illinois has some of the most fertile soils in the country. Currently Illinois farmers grow only six percent of the produce consumed in the state; we could grow much more locally. Metropolitan Chicago's GO TO 2040 plan calls for us to strengthen our region's food systems. By producing more of the food we consume locally, we keep money in the region, support local businesses, strengthen our communities, and have delicious, healthy, fresh produce to eat.

For information about signing up for this luncheon meeting, please visit the Foundation's website:

theconservationfoundation.org