



# Naperville Community Gardeners

July 2012

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

## Beets “Detroit Supreme” Win Photo Contest



Beets “Detroit Supreme” by Laurel LaLonde is the winning photo in the Flower & Garden Show Guide cover photo contest. Thank you to the following members who participated in the contest: Allen Panek, Jim Cavanaugh, Logan Wasson, Ron Ory, Rosemary Holdredge and Vicky Polito. Logan’s Snapdragons and Jim’s Golden Barrel Cactus tied for second place. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was a tie with Rosemary Holdredge’s “Fourth of July” rose and Vicky Polito’s “Coral Charm” peony.

A big thanks to our judges: Barbara Jones, Betty Ference, Linda Allison and Linda Thompson.

Check out the NCG Facebook page to see all the photo entries:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Naperville-Community-Gardeners/212236355548474>

Plan ahead for next year’s photo contest—start taking photos this summer. It is nice to have a photo of specimens that are exhibited at the show. Try to get some good vegetable photos. We get a good number of flower entries but we could use more vegetable entries.

### Upcoming Dates:

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  
August 6, 2012

7 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian  
Church

“Good Bugs,  
Bad Bugs”  
By Julie Moore

Julie Moore, U of I Extension Master Gardener. Julie has been a Master Gardener since 2003, winning the State Outstanding Master Gardener Award in 2008. She has been gardening for 25 years. She holds a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the U of I and she is a Plant Clinic Volunteer at the Morton Arboretum. Julie loves the science side of horticulture: diseases, insects and solving the puzzle of what can take place in a garden. She loves working with gardeners since there is always something new to learn. “Sharing what we know about something we love makes for an exciting two-way street.”



# **NCG Speaker for June 4, 2012 meeting: “Rain Gardens, Common Mistakes and Tips” by Denise Sandoval**

(submitted by Jan Gricus)

Denise Sandoval from Good-Natured Landscapes gave a talk on Rain Gardens, Common Mistakes and Tips. Contact her at: [denise@goodnaturedlandscapes.com](mailto:denise@goodnaturedlandscapes.com)

First, she talked about the importance of keeping water runoff in our yards and not treating water runoff as waste. Runoff consists of rain, snow melt, irrigation and sump pump output. Any water that goes into the storm drain eventually goes to rivers creating water pollution, erosion and flooding. A one-inch rainfall over just one acre amounts to 27,000 gallons of water. Due to all the impervious surfaces that development creates, this is a huge amount of water at great rates of speed heading to our rivers. It smothers aquatic plant life and creates floods carrying all kinds of pollution with it such as excess fertilizer, oil, pesticides, road salts, etc.

Lawns are a monoculture which are high maintenance with shallow roots that absorb very little rainfall. By planting native plants which have deep tap roots, homeowners are able to stem the flow of water runoff to rivers by having more of it absorbed in their yards and filtered by the roots, preventing erosion and flooding and improving water quality while saving money by not watering by hose. (author's note: as I write this I fear my next water bill since I've had to daily deeply water several garden beds that don't have enough native plants. Anyone else with this problem? The answer is clear: plant natives!)

**RAIN GARDENS** - are shallow depressions, a couple of inches deep with a flat bottom and sloped sides, as tall as top of existing grade. Usually planted with natives to help with water infiltration. Water run-off is captured from a downspout, sump-pump or sloped area.

Tip: Favorite websites: [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org) and <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/rg/>

Tip: There are no cookie-cutter rain gardens because each depends on what you want and where you want it and current conditions.

Tip: Location, location, location. Select an area that is at least 10 feet or more from your house. Follow good design. Select an area with sun or part sun and not under big tree roots, utility lines, parkways. Call JULIE before digging!! Select an area that gently slopes. Select an area with good drainage (drains within 24 hours) or you will have to amend area or divert extra water. Study landscape to see where water flows, collects and drains. General drainage test: make two holes 8"x8"x8" in proposed area, fill holes with water. Water should drain in less than 24 hours.

Tip: 3 Rain Garden Planting Zones: inside rain garden on level area; inside rain garden but at outer edges; on berm.

Tip: Choose plants according to amount of sun, moisture and soil texture.

For drier to moist soils in sun-part sun: nodding wild onion, spiderwort, culver's root, fox sedge, white indigo. In part shade-shade: wild ginger, long beak sedge, bellwort, woodland knotweed, tall bellflower.

For wetter soils in sun-part sun: wild senna, blue flag iris, queen of the prairie, button bush, obedient plant, marsh blazing star. In part shade-shade: Gray's (morning star) sedge, Virginia blue bells, sensitive fern, Virginia Wild Rye.

Tip: Rain Garden Berm: dry-average soil. Create gently sloped mound on downslope or sides to contain water. Rule of thumb: top of berm should be as high as the top of the upper rain garden edge. Think about overflow.

Tip: Runoff Entry Ideas: buried drainage pipe; gutter downspout; dry stream bed (gently sloping channel with rocks); bioswale (gently sloping channel with plants).

Tip: Use rocks, branches, etc. to stabilize rain garden sides, or reduce erosion where runoff enters or where overflow exits.

**JOHN RICHTER GARDEN  
29 W 430 FORESTVIEW DRIVE  
WARRENVILLE, ILLINOIS  
JULY 21, 2012  
10:00 AM TO 2PM**

I hope you saved some space in your garden for a few extra hostas and day lilies because John's garden has glorious displays of plants and trees, many of which are for sale.

We will have exclusive access to his garden on Saturday, July 21 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. John will be selling his hostas and day lilies and donating back 20% to our garden club. Please feel free to bring friends and family to participate in this sale. Even if you are not interested in buying you will enjoy his acre of plantings and his vast knowledge of gardening. John is a talker and he loves to talk about gardening.

All of his plants are labeled and he will dig them up for you to take home.

John inherited day lilies from two area hybridizers. William Bell of Glen Ellyn and Nathan Rudolph of Aurora. He has 125 labeled plants including:

- Totally Awesome – lavender pink with ruffled edges
- Double Duchess – rosy pink
- Splendid Touch – pink
- Sarah Christine – yellow
- Pink Windmill – pink and green
- Lake Norman Spider – tends toward purple

John has 550 labeled hosta varieties, a few include:

- Sugar Daddy – Large blue-green leaves streaked with white
- Island Charm – Smaller green and white leaves
- Fragrant Gold – Flowers provide aroma and the leaves turn from green to gold.

If you are interested in trees, John grafts his own plants and has many showy trees:

- Aralia variegata – leaves 3 or 4 feet long with white flowers
- Colorado spruce called Sunshine – creates bright yellow new growth
- Tri-Color Beech – glows with reds and purples
- Ginkgo – Cascades down like a waterfall
- Cypress – Glows dark bronze in the fall
- Golden Compact oriental spruce, weeping larch and variegated lilac

If you are interested in car pooling, please let me know.

Betty Ference

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## **2012 Refreshments**

A big thank-you to Gail Butler and Judy Kanarek for the delicious refreshments at the June meeting.

Refreshment Volunteers:

July	<b>No meeting</b>		Oct. 1	<b>Garden Bounty Potluck</b>
Aug. 6	Vicky Polito	John Polich	Nov.	<b>Harvest Banquet</b>
Sept. 10	Jan Gricus	Pat Thompson	Dec.	<b>No meeting</b>