



# Naperville Community Gardeners

September 2012

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

## Harvest Banquet—Sunday, November 4

### SAVE THE DATE!

NCG Harvest Banquet – Sunday, November 4, 2012  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**All you can eat** Sunday Brunch at Meson Sabika  
1025 Aurora Avenue, Naperville

Cost - \$35 per person. Maximum = 30

Sunday brunch buffet consists of hot and cold tapas as well as a carving station, hot soup, fresh fruit, paella and breakfast items, such as bacon and eggs. Included in the brunch are made-to-order omelets and home-made desserts. Beverages include one glass of champagne or a mimosa for adults, as well as juice, soda, tea and coffee.

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## 2012 Refreshments

A big thank-you to Vicky Polito and John Polich for the refreshments at the August meeting.

### Refreshment Volunteers:

Sept. 10	Jan Gricus	Pat Thompson
Oct. 1	<b>Garden Bounty Potluck</b>	
Nov.	<b>Harvest Banquet</b>	
Dec.	<b>No meeting</b>	

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## Upcoming Dates

October 1	Garden Bounty Potluck & program: “Biodiverse Landscape Design”
November 4	Harvest Banquet - no meeting
December	No meeting

## Next Meeting

**Monday  
September 10, 2012**

**7 p.m.  
Knox Presbyterian  
Church**

“Naperville Park District’s Knoch  
Knolls Nature Center and other  
Green Team Initiatives”

Ms. Peggy Pelkonen, RLA, ASLA, is a Project Manager with the Naperville Park District where she is involved in design and overseeing construction projects. She is also on the Green Team and in charge of managing native area restoration projects. She worked at the Morton Arboretum from 2001-2008 and was involved in the design and construction of the Maze Garden, Visitor ‘s Center and Entry Landscape as well as collaborating on Meadow Lake and the Children’s Garden.

## Welcome New Member

Shirley Brockman

**Plant Exchange—Please contact the member who has what you want or wants what you have. A membership list with contact information has been attached to the newsletter email.**

## WANTED

**Linda Thompson:**

Russian Sage, Elijah blue fescue and catmint.

**Laurel LaLonde:**

Looking for perennials that bloom pink or white in July or August - 18"-24" tall, full sun, non-invasive. Also Hens and Chicks.

(Miscellaneous Wanted: Would also appreciate some Curly Willow branches and if anyone has any china with small floral patterns or stained glass scraps, I would love to have them for my mosaic bird bath project.)

**Mary Wright:**

Russian sage, Lavender, any perennials that have purple flowers.

**Shirley Brockman:**

Yellow hostas or any hostas beside white edge with green on the center, any perennials will do for me.

**Laurie Hogrewe:**

Pachysandra  
anything native that is relatively short (max 6ft)

**Betty Ference:**

Purple Sage

## **Newsletter Submissions**

All newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of the month. Newsletter submissions should be typed in Microsoft Word, attached to an email, and sent to:

ncgardennews@gmail.com

When I receive your submission, I will reply to let you know that I got it. If you do not get a reply, please resend and call me if you don't get a reply on your second attempt.

## OFFERING

**Linda Thompson:**

I have lots of hostas I can divide (many varieties). Also raspberries and vinca.

**Laurel LaLonde:**

Geranium, Cranesbill "Butterfly Kisses"  
Begins to flower in September. Reaches 2' wide and 18" tall. Magenta pink bicolor flowers. Full sun to light shade, well drained soil.  
Salvia "Wesuve" - Violet blue flowers on 18" clumps. Full sun.

**Eleanor Holt:**

Five or six rhizomes of blue bearded iris

**Mary Wright:**

Redbud trees, Rose of Sharon bushes, ferns, Peony bushes

**Shirley Brockman:**

Hostas white edge and green center.  
Trumpet vines  
pink 2 shades peonies  
Indoor spider plant (I do not know the exact name)  
Roses of Sharon

**Laurie Hogrewe:**

hosta (the original variegated) I think it's Albo Marginata. 6 already potted; more now or in spring  
hosta -- plain, light green, larger leaf  
vinca  
redbud seedlings (2 ft tall)  
brunera  
field daisies (bloom in June) -- moderately invasive (by seed)  
clustered bellflower blue -- moderately invasive (spreading)  
northern sea oats -- moderately invasive (by seed)  
native rose that can be trained into a hardy tree rose -- pink

**Angel Whitt:**

Black eyed Susans & Feverfew

**Marty Kraus**

spider plant, aloe vera, some succulants

**Bob Elvert**

Northern sea oats, Sweet william

# GARDEN BOUNTY POT LUCK

## OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING

So what do we do with all that edible bounty that we get from our gardens? We cook with it of course! October is a great time to create your favorite garden dish and bring it to the garden club meeting. Salsas, breads, tarts, jams, juices, soups, appetizers, salads, pickles, relishes, sauces, cakes, cookies – we want to taste them all. You do not have to use vegetables/fruits from your garden, you can use store bought items also. This is an opportunity to share cooking ideas with the group so that we can start thinking about what types of items we would like to grow next year.

We will have tables to sit at as well as paper plates, napkins and utensils.

There will not be our usual treat table.

I'm envisioning a lot of grazing going on before, during and after our speaker presentation.

**This is totally optional and by no means a requirement for attendance. Come and enjoy the bounty.**

### Things to bring:

- Your dish to share (enough to provide one small sample for about 30 people).
- Serving utensils.
- Recipe – bring copies or bring just one (helps in case someone has food allergies to see the ingredients) and have a sign-up sheet on the bottom of your copy. You can then email the recipe to those who are interested.
- If bringing something like soup, please provide disposable bowls.
- Bring an appetite.

### SEED EXCHANGE

Our speaker will be discussing seed saving. This is a great time to gather seeds, dry seeds and package them up for an exchange. Please remember to label your seeds and provide baggies or pouches for distribution.

Hope to see you in October.

*Betty Ference*

Due to fragrance allergies,  
your "fragrance free" attendance  
at meetings and club events is greatly appreciated.

# AUGUST 6, 2012 SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Submitted by Jan Gricus

Julie Moore, Master Gardener with the U of I Extension gave a talk on good bugs and bad bugs in the garden.

## Guarding the Garden: Habitat Manipulation to Favor Natural Enemies

Natural enemies are the good guys in the garden. They include lady beetles, lacewings and parasitic wasps and flies. Natural enemies are the insects and their relatives that help to control the damaging insects of our garden and landscape.

How well the natural enemies control the bad guys largely depends on the pests, crops and cultural practices involved. Cultural activities such as tillage, weeding, intercropping and harvesting can have serious effects on the insects of the garden. To the pest, the crop is a dense and pure concentration of its basic food resource, so of course, it is delighted to have the garden weeded and watered each season. For the natural enemies, such overly simplified cropping systems are less hospitable because natural enemies require more than prey or hosts to complete their life cycles. Many parasitoid adults, for instance, require pollen and nectar to sustain them while they search for hosts. The parasitoids look for this resource in nearby flowering 'weeds'. And considering that most natural enemies, especially ground beetles, do not disperse far distances from where they overwinter, having permanent habitat near or within the garden or field will enhance their ability to get an early start on burgeoning pest populations. Attending to all aspects of natural enemy biology, therefore, is an excellent way of minimizing the disruptive impact of modern crop production.

Celebrate a diversity of plants in the garden: Since most pests are generally better at dispersal than natural enemies, one can see how a garden might get colonized by pests long before natural enemies. For this reason, it is all the more important that flowering borders, hedges, and other perennial habitat be provided for the natural enemies. A more diverse plant canopy will provide not only alternate food sources for natural enemies but also shelter and provide critical overwintering sites. Research has shown that the presence of such non-crop habitat within or immediately adjacent to the cropped area can increase the abundance and diversity of natural enemies present. In some instances this has led to increased yields or at least reduced pest control costs. Non-crop habitat may be as simple as straw mulch, which provides humid, sheltered hiding places for nocturnal predators like spiders and ground beetles. Straw mulch may also make it harder for flying insect pests such as aphids and leafhoppers to "see" the crop, by reducing the visual contrast between the foliage and the bare soil surface. **Mulched garden plots have been shown to have significantly less insect damage through this combination of effects.**

Plant a full season of flowers friendly to natural enemies: Certain flowering plants can greatly increase the longevity and fertility of many natural enemies. For example, a study in Canadian apple orchards showed that parasitism of orchard pests was 4 to 18 times higher in orchards with many wild flowers than in orchards with few flowers. Our knowledge of which plants are most useful in this regard is far from complete. A number of plant species have been shown to encourage natural enemies (see list), but this list is certainly far from complete.

We offer the following guidelines to use in considering additional flowers as habitat for natural enemies. Flowers provide pollen and nectar as a sort of bribe to induce insects to transfer pollen from one flower to the next and cause pollination. However, the size and shape of a given flower limits the kinds of insects that can access its pollen and nectar. Many of the natural enemies that can benefit most from floral resources are small parasitic wasp, often smaller than a mosquito. Consequently, flowers that are good for natural enemies are usually small, not overly tubular, and relatively open.

Equally important as flower size and shape is the timing of pollen and nectar production by the flowers. Many natural enemy species are active as adults only for discrete periods during the growing season. Pollen and nectar must be available when the adults are active. This is most easily achieved by planting a mixture of plants that have relatively long blooming periods that overlap in time. Perennial plants often have shorter blooming periods than annuals, so particular attention should be given to plant diversity and blooming times in perennial borders designed as habitat for natural enemies.

Several plant families contain species that are especially noted for their attractiveness to beneficial insects. For example, the carrot family contains many such species. In an organic market garden in Massachusetts, flowering fennel attracted 48 species of ichneumonid wasps and 8 species of predatory wasps. Queen Anne's lace and wild parsnip have been shown to be attractive and effective in both field and lab studies. In the home garden, sequential plantings of dill, coriander and caraway can be made to provide a continuous source of their valuable flowers.

*Continued on page 5*

## **August Speaker Presentation** *continued....*

### GOOD FLOWERS FOR THE GOOD BUGS:

Carrot Family: Caraway, Coriander (Cilantro), Dill, Fennel, Flowering ammi or Bishop's flower, Queen Anne's Lace (wild carrot), Wild Parsnip.

Aster Family: Blanketflower, Coneflower, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Goldenrod, Sunflower, Tansy, Yarrow.

Bean Family: Alfalfa, Big Flower Vetch, Fava Bean, Hairy Vetch, Sweet Clover.

Mustard Family: Basket-of-Gold Alyssum, Hoary Alyssum, Mustards, Sweet Alyssum, Yellow Rocket, Wild Mustard.

Other important plants: Buckwheat, Cinquefoil, Milkweeds, Phacelia.

### GOOD BUGS:

Lady beetles, Flower Fly, Green Lacewing; Spined Soldier Beetle; True Cricket; Lightning Bug; Praying Mantis (good and bad because it eats all bugs); Dragon Fly; Parasitic Wasps; Tachinid Fly; Hover Fly; Black Lady Beetle; Common Black Ground Beetle; Centipede; Wolf Spider and many more.

### BAD BUGS:

Aphids, Stink Bugs; Japanese Beetles; Gypsy Moth; Bagworms; Eastern Tent Caterpillars; European Pine Sawflies; Weevils; Earwigs; Slugs; Leaf Miners; Lilac Ash Borer; Iris Borer; Yellow Bellied Sapsucker; Carpenter Bee; Leaf Cutter Bee; Colorado Potato Beetle; Grass-hopper and many more.

To reduce the number of bad bugs in your garden, use insect-resistant plants. Reduce stress on plants by planting the right plant in the right place; use mulch; water properly; reduce stress. A healthy plant in the right location is less desirable to insects and diseases who target stressed plants.

Identify the insect before getting out the pesticide. You don't want to kill a good bug instead by accident. Also, determine how much damage you are able to tolerate. If the insect damage is minor, don't use chemicals at all. It's much safer for you and the environment to reduce/eliminate the use of chemicals. Many pests, like Japanese beetles, can be eliminated just by tapping them into a jar of soapy water.

Use resources such as books, journal articles and Extension publications to help determine exactly what eats the crop, when it does, what it looks like, what natural enemies eat the pest and what alternate resources the natural enemies need.

Above information taken from an article by Shawn Steffan and Paul Whitaker, U. of WI-Madison.

Other sources of information include:

*Natural Enemies in Your Garden*; *A Homeowner's Guide to Biological Control*, Michigan State University Extension Bulletin 2719

*Natural Enemies Handbook: The Illustrated Guide to Biological Pest Control*, U. of CA. Publication 3386

[http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/ext/biological\\_control.html](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/ext/biological_control.html)

## **Flower and Garden Show Ribbons**

If you were honored with a ribbon, you are welcome to keep them, OR you may turn them back in to us at the next meeting on September 10th. Please REMOVE the staple from them first. Reusing the ribbons, allows us to use them again next year, saving us some money.

*Barbara Jones*

# Minutes from the August 6, 2012 Meeting

*Submitted by Vicky Polito*

Betty Ference called the meeting to order 7:04p. Apprx. 28 attending, 4 guests.

Motion to approve June meeting minutes (no July mtng) made and approved.

Jan Gricus, others, report that the Ben Calvert family is pleased and honored at the change of the Flower & Garden Show annual Sweepstakes Ribbon to the Ben Calvert Award. They will be invited to the meeting in September to meet the winner (as we have no award ceremony per se at the FGS) and will be sent copies of the newly published show guide, etc.

Tom Campbell made available the FGS guides and competitor entry tags for the show on Aug 18. Passed around signup sheet for setup and judging/staging help.

Betty reported Richter garden sale in July a success that netted the club \$89 in (20%) commission. This will be considered for 2013 again as a fundraiser.

Betty asked for volunteers for the 2013 committee chairs and officer posts to be voted on during Oct meeting. We'll need: a VP/Program Chair; a refreshments coordinator; a picnic coordinator; someone to do both the newsletter and the FGS guide; and a tee-shirt coordinator. Nancy said she'd be glad to re-start hosting the mini-show. Those currently in spots they mean to keep should make that known. Related to this, Betty has emailed around a "job description" form to be completed by all office and chair holders to aid in transition of roles and responsibilities year to year. Those due Aug 15.

Jan Gricus and Vicky Polito passed around a survey form regarding the Harvest Banquet being held at Meson-Sabika on during Sunday brunch on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Members asked to indicate preference for fee structure and likelihood to attend.

Ron Ory reported that the garden plots vegetable beds had netted thus far over 800lbs of produce for Loaves & Fishes donation this year, despite brutal summer. Also that the rain garden needed to be supported with watering to get through the drought and was struggling along and same goes for Ben's tree. He asked for and got volunteers to do the walk-through and judging of the garden plots for best gardens. Ron said he has ideas for 2013 to potentially make a new sensory garden at the plots, near Ben's tree, tying into the park district's "Excite the Senses" campaign.

Club agreed to have the October meeting as a Garden Bounty Potluck once again.

Nancy Carroll talked about the success and needs of the gardens at Life Spring shelter, where she volunteers and always needs small vases, any donation you can think of to continue program success.

Carolyn Finzer mentioned special bee program happening on weekend at Growing Place on Kautz Rd. and also promoted Pat Armstrong's self-published book on alpine plants, which includes Pat's pairing up people like Carolyn and (former speaker) Denise Sandoval with favorite representative alpine plants. Minimum 12 book order necessary for a print run, at \$40/ea.

Ollie made a pitch for the raffle that Naperville Noon Lions is holding, with large cash prizes totally \$10K.

Mini-show: Lots of great tomatoes from Tom—Russian Persimmon, Black Krim, Bloody Butcher, Brandywine Pink, Burpee Jubilee, Amana Orange, Big Rainbow and Mrs. Benson (whew!). Betty brought some cute Purple Viking and Yukon Gold potatoes. A huge (apprx 8in diam.) unnamed tomato from garden plot shown. Shirley (missing last name, not current member) brought a cucumber and some nice rhubarb (can cut until frost, not after, FYI). Ron gave away some Trumpet Vine pods. Carolyn Finzer had a big house plant to give away. Angel said she's got some chicken hatchlings to sell. Nancy Carroll showed some Caladiums like Florida Sweetheart, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49p followed by refreshment break and program on "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs", by Julie Moore.

## 2012 Flower & Garden Show Winners

Congratulations to Carolyn Finzer for winning Best of Show and congratulations to all of the other winners!

	Category	Name	Specimen Name
Best of Class	Class 100: Annual/Biennial	Wanda Wohead	Gerbera Daisy
Best of Class	Class 200: Perennial	Rosemary Steltzer	Hosta Flowers
Best of Class	Class 300: Gladiolus/Summer Bulbs	Barbara Jones	Elephant Ear
Best of Class	Class 400: Roses	Carol Beagarie	Shrub Rose
Best of Class	Class 500: Dahlias	Nick Papadolias	Dahlia "Kelvin Floodlight"
Best of Class	Class 600: Potted Plants	Shirley Brockman	Jasmine
Best of Class	Class 1000A: Vegetables, Bush Type	Wanda Wohead	Japanese Eggplant
Best of Class	Class 1000B: Vegetables, Root Types	Tom Campbell	Onion "Candy"
Best of Class	Class 1000C: Vegetables, Vines	Wanda Wohead	Squash "Patty Pan"
Best of Class	Class 1000D: Vegetables, Tomatoes	Tom Campbell	Tomato "Nebraska Wedding"
Best of Class	Class 1000E: Herbs	Carolyn Finzer	Potted Rosemary
Best of Class	Class 1100: Fruits & Melons	Tom Campbell	Cantalope "Hearts of Gold"
Best of Class	Class 1300: Artistic Arrangements & Art	Susan Neufelder	Fairy Garden
Best of Class	Class 1400: Youth	Claire	Zinnias
Best Photo	Show Guide Cover Photo	Laurel Lalonde	Beets "Detroit Supreme"
Best Flower	From Classes 100 to 500	Nick Papadolias	Dahlia "Kelvin Floodlight"
Best Vegetable	From Classes 1000A to 1100	Carolyn Finzer	Potted Rosemary
Best of Show		Carolyn Finzer	Potted Rosemary
Ben Calvert Award	Member with most show points	Tom Campbell	151 Points