



# NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENERS

August 2013

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

## NEXT MEETING

August 5, 2013

7 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

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**SPEAKER: Connor Shaw**

**TOPIC: Native Woody Plants  
for Urban Landscape**

Connor Shaw is the owner and founder of Possibility Place Nursery. With his background in horticulture, including a B.S. in forest hydrology and an M.S. in wild land hydrology, he has taught classes and given seminars on native plants and nursery production throughout Chicagoland. He has a reputation for wit and for a commonsense approach to using native plants.

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## President's Message

I was very proud to represent Naperville Community Gardeners at the June 13th Naperville Park District Board meeting when I presented the Club's two checks for \$500 each for Riverwalk and Sensory Garden plantings. Then-President Kirsten Young was quite appreciative and recognized our hard work and dedication to these gardening projects in a very nice speech about our commitment and generosity. Let me know if any of you watched that meeting on TV.

The NCG garden walk and picnic back in June was great fun. Thanks to those who opened their yards and invited us to walk through them. Nick's yard is wonderfully creative and chock full of great ideas. He certainly puts the dove guano to good use. Laurie did an amazing job on the labyrinth, especially considering last year's heat and humidity. The arrangement of the bricks was pleasing to look at and peaceful to walk through. Thanks to Ron for showing us the Idea Gardens and all the carpentry work he and his brother did on signage, trellises, etc. Thanks to Betty for hosting the picnic and to Marty for providing music. Hope everyone who came enjoyed my garden as well. If there are any plants in my garden you were particularly interested in, let me know and I'll be happy to share if possible.

I just got back from the John Richter garden and missed the rest of you by minutes. It was a joy to walk through his yard, and I couldn't leave without buying four hostas. He has created a gardener's dream, taking full advantage of the shade he created with his trees and all the sunny areas devoted to daylilies....how colorful was that display!! The ornaments and garden art scattered around deserved a second look. He certainly is a man who enjoys what he is doing.

Next up is the tour of Ball Horticulture Gardens in West Chicago on Saturday, August 3rd. I will send out an email with directions and instructions shortly.

I am very much looking forward to our August meeting when Connor Shaw from the Possibility Place Nursery will talk to us...hope to see all of you there.

**DON'T FORGET THE FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW** on Saturday, August 17. If you have never submitted anything before, this is the year to do so. I did not submit anything my first year in the Club, but as I walked around the show, I thought, "I could have brought 50 things to display!!" Tom will have Show Guides at our August meeting. Please go through it and then walk through your yard. Besides vegetables, leaves of many plants are eligible...blades of ornamental grass...herbs...vines...sedums...potted plants....the list is quite extensive. Especially if you have an unusual plant (and I know lots of you do), please consider bringing in a stem or two (check the Guide) so we all can learn something new.

Tip of the Month: Stay cool and hold off planting anything delicate until the end of summer.

Jan

## COMING EVENTS

August 3	Tour of Ball Gardens
August 5	Meeting: Connor Shaw— “Native Woody Plants”
August 17	Annual Flower and Garden Show
September 9	Meeting and Program
October 7	Meeting and Program
November	Harvest Banquet—no meeting
December	No meeting

### The Flower and Garden Show

Saturday, August 17, 2013

The Barn Recreation Center

421 W. Martin Avenue, Naperville

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Exhibit entries: 7-10 a.m.

Public viewing: 1:30-3 p.m.

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One of the objectives of our club is to promote gardening interests in the community, and our show is an excellent way to fulfill that objective. If you have never participated, please consider taking part this year by entering exhibits, volunteering to help with setting up, or accompanying the judges to assist with ribbons and clerical work. It's fun!

Encourage non-members to participate. Like you, they will enjoy the experience, and they might well win one of the big prizes—that coveted blue ribbon. Be sure that they have a show guide; it's not a complicated booklet, but it does tell how many blooms, tomatoes, or bulbs of garlic are needed for each entry. Tags accompany each entry; it's a good idea to fill them out before arriving at the show, but they can be completed when the participants arrive at the barn if that is easier

If you cannot attend the August meeting to receive guides and tags, you can find them at the Park District Office on Jackson and at the Rubin Center, courtesy of the show chairman, Tom Campbell. You can also access the guide at [www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org](http://www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org).

Very few area clubs continue to sponsor shows like this one. Let's keep this glorious tradition going.

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

### Executive Board—2013

President.....Janice Gricus  
Vice-President.....Mark Mayszak  
Secretary.....Vicky Polito  
Treasurer.....Tom Campbell  
Past President.....Betty Ference

### Committee Chairs - 2013

Correspondence .....Carolyn Finzer  
Email List Moderator.....Eleanor Holt  
Facebook Page .....Robert Stephens  
Flower and Garden Show.....Tom Campbell  
Flower and Garden Show Guide.....Tom Campbell  
Harvest Banquet .....**OPEN**  
Historian .....Carolyn Finzer  
Membership.....JoAnn Monge  
Meeting Refreshments.....Cricket Cressman  
Mini-Show.....Angel Whitt  
Naperville 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 .....Logan Wasson  
Website.....Peter Klassen

### Website:

[www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org](http://www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org)

### Our Mailing Address:

Naperville Community Gardeners  
P.O.Box 9555  
Naperville, IL 60567-9555  
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### **It's never too early to think about the plant sale . . .**

If you are planning on starting seeds late winter and need 4", 5", or 6" pots for transplanting the new plants, please contact Linda Allison. I have quite a few and could bring them to the August meeting so that you are ready for next year's plantings.

## MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 3, 2013

Executive Board: The officers met briefly at 6:45. Discussed: (1) a correction to the May 6 minutes showing that the secretary was in attendance; (2) the need for information to be presented to new members as a means of better informing them about club programs and procedures; (3) the possibility of the club becoming more involved in the Idea Gardens at the Garden Plots. The group adjourned at 7 p.m.

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President Jan Gricus called to order the meeting of the Naperville Garden Club at 7:05 on June 3, 2013. There were thirty members in attendance. Carolyn Finzer moved, Rosemary Holdredge seconding, that the minutes from the May 6, 2013 be approved as printed in the newsletter. The motion carried.

Bob Elvert, Chairman of the Plant Sale, reported that the club made a profit of \$2100 from the sale. Discussion followed concerning ways to better promote the sale in future years. The possibility of additional presales and of adding suppliers was mentioned. Bob also reported that he and Peter Klassen had planted leftover sale plants at the club's caretaking site on the Riverwalk; that site suffered during the spring flood and required clean-up. Linda Allison, Chairman of Members' Plants, reported that although fewer plants were contributed by members this year, probably because of the late spring, the quality of the plants at the sale was excellent.

Betty Ference reminded the group that the club garden walk and picnic will take place on Saturday, June 29. She will send an email to members with further information.

Jan Gricus asked that members sign up for the visit to Ball Seed Gardens to be held on Saturday, August 3. Those wishing to carpool should indicate that fact on a special sign-up sheet.

Ron Ory presented a revised plan for the gardens on West Street, now to be called the Idea Gardens. He moved, Gail Butler seconding, that the club assume a stronger role in the maintenance of the garden because of the club's goal of sharing gardening expertise with the community and because the club has given considerable financial support in the last few years. Discussion followed, with questions about how the roles of the Park District and the Master Gardeners in these gardens will affect the club's responsibilities and how the supporting activities of the club will be organized. Ron Ory stated that he is willing to act as chairman to oversee the project, beginning with planting on Saturday, June 22. The motion carried.

Carolyn Finzer showed the wheelbarrow that she had decorated for the auction to be held to raise funds at the Lisle Depot Days in September. She had used the motif of the Monarch butterfly in its life cycle for her design. She also announced that she had the signup sheet for anyone interested in helping preparations for The Growing Place Art Show, to be held on Saturday, June 22. In addition, she had booklets to sell to those who wished to attend the Naperville Garden Club's garden walk on Saturday, June 8.

To conclude the business meeting, several members showed flowers to be enjoyed as well as plants, seedlings, rhubarb, and gardening equipment and supplies to be taken by any interested members. At 7:55 Mark Mayzak moved, Bob Elvert and many others seconding, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

After an interval for refreshments, Ellen Gunter gave a talk entitled "Climate Reality." The presentation included many slides depicting floods, fires, and famines—all the result of global warming, according to the speaker. After pointing out the errors of those who doubt that humans are responsible for the increase in carbon dioxide and its effect on climate, Ellen Gunter suggested that members should contact their representatives to demand action in this matter. They should also affiliate themselves with groups that share their concerns, perhaps starting with the Global Reality Conference to be held in Chicago on July 31-August 1.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Holt for Vicky Polito, Secretary

## *The Idea Gardens*



Work on the Idea Gardens continues. Ron Ory and his crew of dedicated workers have made much progress since the heavy rains of spring delayed a few aspects of the project. The Native Plants Demo Garden has been expanded to align with the front of the Sensory Garden, making the area more welcoming to visitors. The Sensory Garden is beginning to mature; the annuals will gradually be replaced with plantings which are more appropriate for sustainability.

The Rain Garden functioned more like a wetland for most of the spring, and, as a result, many of last year's plants were lost. Plans call for modifications which will allow better drainage and enable the rain garden plants to survive. In the Vegetable Garden some produce is already being harvested, and signs are that this year the donations to Loaves and Fishes will exceed last year's 4,000 pounds.

Many club members have generously given their time to work in the garden. All help is appreciated.

Information supplied by Ron Ory



On planting day in the Idea Garden, club members helped install the entrance arch plus more than 175 plants.



A monarch butterfly on common milkweed in the Idea Garden: proof that this native plant should be in our gardens if we want to keep those butterflies coming our way.