



# NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY GARDENERS

February 2016

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### February 1 Meeting

7 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

1105 Catalpa Lane

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**Michelle Hickey, Co-founder of The Resiliency Institute.**

Learn to garden your landscape using permaculture zones that will have you enjoying the fruits of your garden while maximizing efficiency and minimizing labor. Be prepared to shake up traditional landscaping concepts with new considerations for determining plant placement.



What a difference a month makes, weather wise. On December 11th the temperature was 60 degrees, today it is closer to 6...actually, it was about 9 degrees this morning. But it doesn't change the fact that January is a great month for gardeners. I got my seed order in yesterday from my favorite catalog and have picked up several packets of discount seeds at a local store. A 35-cent packet compared to a \$3.95 plus shipping packet is very different. I haven't noticed any quality issues with the discount seeds, meaning that they seem to germinate as well as the more expensive seeds. The difference is in the varieties available through catalogs. Plus, if you are interested in larger quantities, some of the catalogs offer them.

While on the subject of seeds, let's bring in the subject of the club's plant sale, scheduled for the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. It is our only fund raiser for the year, so it is very important to the success of the club. The plant material we sell comes from two sources: a commercial vendor and members. The plant materials from members come from two sources: existing plants that can be potted up for sale and new seedlings that can be specifically grown by the members for the plant sale. In some years, members interested in growing from seed have gotten together at someone's home to facilitate the process. Maybe we could do that this year? In any case I have some extra seed that I can give to members interested in growing them out for the sale. Don't worry if you haven't done it before; we have members who can help you learn. I have, in particular, extra onion seed since that was mentioned as a possibly good sale item.

I am also interested in doing it. Let me know and I will share some seed and technique with you. I thought it would be a neat thing to have at the plant sale. What box store will have artichokes?! (Understand, I am not talking about Jerusalem Artichokes).

We are very fortunate to have Bob Elvert as our Plant Sale Chairman again this year. Bob has been doing a great job and I am sure will appreciate an all-out effort from all of us.

On another note, we have traditionally invited members to bring plants to show at the meetings. The tables against the wall are there for that purpose. If you have a good looking amaryllis or some other plant, bring it in to show the rest of us. You can also use the tables for a member exchange. If you have a book, tool, extra seed, plants or whatever that you don't need but think someone else may be able to use...bring it in. But be sure, if no one wants it, that you take it back.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on Monday, February 1st,

Rod Beary

## MINUTES FOR JANUARY 4, 2016

### Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM

Attendance: Jan Gricus, Eleanor Holt, Rod Beary, Mark Mayszak, Barb Bozek, Betty Ference

Budget Review-Jan Gricus

Jan distributed the budget to committee with last years' and the proposed new year budget numbers.

The plant sale has been only breaking even the last few years, making around \$1,400. Our commitment to COD is done, lasted three years.

Jan pointed out that we had taken out \$100 for publicity; gave it to Naperville Newcomers but haven't gotten anyone from that.

Plant Sale discussion:

Suggestion that we need to bump up advertising in general and include in publicity that we have special, exotic plants, and possibly buy less flats of common varieties. Rod mentioned starting artichoke plants for sale now, and expand on other specialties – maybe cuttings to differentiate our club from big box stores. A lot more signs were put up in the past. We should have around 30 signs with Saturday only printed on them with placement in member yards. In the past we have used election sign frames. Maybe members could do 15 minutes presentations at sale to spark interest. Putting plants in a pot, sharpening, spiralizing, worming, Have onions ready to plant much earlier, let Garden Plot people buy them from our meeting earlier. Rod will grow some onions and put in pots.

### General Meeting

Welcoming new people – 14 new guests

Treasurer's report (Jan Gricus) – Dues are collectable now, \$20.00; currently have \$8,482.98 in bank, budget needs approval next month. The budget will be distributed via email.

Plant sale report ( Bob Elvert). Joann Monge volunteered to be chair for plant member donations. Bob reviewed the current plant sale process and asked members and guests what they want to see in a sale. Bob is looking for volunteers for publicity/ advertising for the sale and someone to chair a committee to make signs. We have three months to make signs and should distribute them at April meeting.

Mark Mayszak moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Patti Thompson. No discussion. Approved.

Flower Show: Barn may be torn down per Ron Ory, need new place for flower show.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:00 PM by Judy Kanarek, second by Betty Ference. Meeting adjourned.

### Presentation: *Intensive Gardening – How to grow more with less.* Donna Hisson

Why Intensive Gardening – less space, less water, less weeding. Less work. A weed is a plant that has every survival skill but does not know how to grow in rows. Typical methods are monoculture – the single crop in a given area. Polyculture – the cultivation of multiple crops in an area. Wide row planting – make sure your row is no wider than twice your arm length. Need to be able to get into the middle of row. Plants closer together for more plants, mingling in flowers and vegetables, takes less water, attracts the good bugs. Weeding required. Bare soil – has seed bank in it – just waiting for sun and water – another crop of weeds.

Start thinking horizontal and vertical gardening – companion gardening, converting traditional landscape to something more edible. Grow squash, watermelon, peas, beans, tomatoes, smaller varieties easily supported in vertical space

Companion planting - Planting different crops in proximity for pest control, pollination, to provide beneficial habitat, maximize use of space and increase crop productivity.

Guild concept of using companion planting. Carrots –use leek, lettuce, cabbage intermingled between or around other plants .

Onions –put lettuce, cabbage, beet root, herbs in with onions. Cucumbers around, corn, beans. Kale used as ornamental annual.

Border made with marigold, sage and celery. Edible landscapes. Healthy soil and compost crop rotation, important pieces to your garden.; keep a garden journal. Graph paper with garden layout. Plant combinations that do well. Make notations of those that don't. Keep track of seed variety and where you got them from with germination rate. Refer to handout for reference materials.

**NCGC 2016 Plant Sale - May 7, 2016**

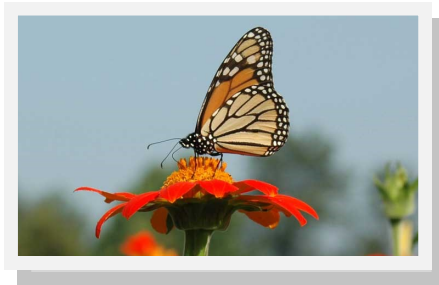
I want to thank everyone who was at the January meeting for their active dialogue regarding ideas on how the Club can improve our primary income source -- the annual Plant Sale. In response, I want to further the discussion at the February meeting to try and find the best ideas and develop a game plan, including new avenues of communication, advertising and possible change of date, and complete them well ahead of the sale.

I have received the 2016 Schaefer order list and will have extra copies at the table to review prior to and during the break. There are only a few minor revisions to past years'. However, I want to discuss some possible price increases, probable pre-orders, and ways to better "present" the plants.

I have obtained the NPD permit for our sale at the Ron Ory Garden Plots, including their 3 pop-up tents. I only need to provide the 2016 insurance form, once we have paid for it. In response to having food vendors, we would need to obtain their county/site health permit as well as any other local permit, if necessary.

Hopefully by now you have blocked out sufficient time on both Friday May 6th from noon to 6pm for set-up, AS WELL AS Saturday May 7th from 7am to 1pm for the sale !!

**Bob Elvert- Plant Sale Chair**



**Save the Monarch Butterfly - Fish and Wildlife Service**

<http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/>

**Website:**  
www.napervillecommunitygardeners.org

**Mailing Address:**

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

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**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**

Correspondence .....OPEN  
 Email List Moderator.....Eleanor Holt  
 Facebook Page .....OPEN  
 Flower and Garden Show.....Vicky Polito  
 Flower and Garden Show Guide.....Vicky Polito  
 Harvest Banquet ..... Gail Butler  
 Historian .....OPEN  
 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 Sales .....OPEN  
 Website.....Peter Klassen

## IDEA GARDENS UPDATE

In 2015 a few gardeners helped out after I was not able to continue to improve and maintain the Idea Gardens as I had planned. (After April, it was a non-gardening season for me in 2015.)



The Eagle Scouts installed the interpretative signs in the Spring.



Club members and the Park District jumped in to maintain the Gardens and plant the annuals donated by the club.

I'm happy to report that another Napervillean has been certified as a "Master Naturalist" and is looking to help out at the Idea Gardens. (I will encourage him to also join our club.) He is currently reviewing what perennials have been planted and is considering possible additional plants for the Gardens, especially the Rain Garden. We've also talked with the Park District about improving the adjacent area. They have already cleared most of the trees to the west in preparation for possibly installing a tree nursery. They also have plans to install prairie seeds on the north side of the road along the outside of the fence of Sportsman's Park.

I've talked to the club treasurer and requested that, like last year, the \$500 contribution that went to the Riverwalk be put towards the Idea Gardens.

We'll probably schedule a planting day in May to install annuals and perennials in the Gardens. I'm thinking SPRING!

**Ron Ory**

## USAgain Textile Recycling

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has teamed with USAgain (pronounced "use again") to provide collection bins at 15 preserves around the county. USAgain collects used clothes and resells them worldwide to conserve natural resources. Each collection bin holds up to 500 pounds of clothes, shoes, and household textiles. The Forest Preserve will receive three cents per pound of all textiles collected from the bins.

Nearest bin location is Whalon Lake , Royce Road and Lisson in Naperville.

The USAgain website states that "gently used clothes" can be recycled. But USAgain also accepts those textiles that are torn, stained, or threadbare to sell to recyclers that shred the items to make insulation for dishwashers, housing, the automobile industry, and mattress padding. Non-reusable shoes are ground up to make raw materials for sidewalks, running tracks, playground mulch, and carpet padding. Only five percent of collected items are deemed unusable and discarded.

Each year in the United States, every man, woman, and child purchases more than 81 pounds of textiles. This includes 66 pounds of clothes, footwear, towels, sheets, and pillowcases, of which only about 10 pounds will ever be reused or recycled. The remaining 56 pounds of textiles will end up in landfills as trash.

USAgain, whose corporate office is in West Chicago, Illinois, is a green, for-profit textile recycling company that employs 220 full-time workers. USAgain collects about one million pounds of clothing per week, which is then purchased by wholesale buyers, thrift store chains, and textile recyclers. With more than 10,000 collection bins in 15 states, USAgain retrieved 56 million pounds of discarded clothing in 2010, preventing 392 million pounds of carbon emissions and saving 320,000 cubic yards of landfill space.

From 1980 to 2005, the worldwide textile trade grew 10 times, from \$200 million to \$2 billion in revenues. The top exporters of textiles are the United States, Germany, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, and the top importers are Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe. Half of all textiles recovered by USAgain are resold in the United States through 12,000 thrift stores nationwide. Thirty percent of recycled textiles are resold on the international market, and 20 percent of collected textiles are recycled into rags, insulation, and other useful materials.

According to USAgain, textiles account for more greenhouse gas savings than paper, plastics, and glass combined. For every ton of textiles that are recycled, seven tons of carbon dioxide are saved from the production of raw materials and manufacture of textiles.

**Submitted by JoAnn Monge**

