



April 2024

Greetings from Our President

As our formal club presentations wrap up in April and May, we shift to focusing on a broader engagement with our community through various activities. Earth Day at Olive School, the Memorial Day Parade, the Plant Sale, the Garden Walk and our civic focused gardening efforts all become ways for us to socialize, network, learn hands on and give back. Keep checking the website for opportunities to sign up if you are unable to join us at one of our final meetings. I'll also be sending out periodic updates through email, so stay tuned for more.

Beth

*We don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.
—Native American Proverb*

*Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.
—Rachel Carson*

Spring Meetings

April 22
May 20 *

See page 2 for meeting details

** Third Monday of the month*

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April Program

April 22 @ 7:30 PM, St. Simon's Church

Birding in Barrington and Beyond

Presented by Luke Dahlburg



Luke Dahlburg has a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and has been in the horticultural field for over a decade. Luke has been involved with Citizens for Conservation for twenty years and has spent an equal amount of time 'birding'! Come and share his bird enthusiasm and the knowledge he has gained with our garden club.

Spring has sprung! Join local 'birder' Luke Dahlburg while he explores the many beautiful birds that live in and around the Barrington area. Barrington is rich in natural woodland areas, and privately protected sites, which host a variety of bird species. We also have our Crabtree, River Trails and Busse Woods Forest Preserves to provide us with an environment to enjoy birding. Luke will discuss bird species and where, when, and how to find them not only in Barrington but in OUR own backyard.



April Garden Chores

Don't forget to review the [list of things to do](#) in your garden this spring.

Color:

About Our Monthly Meetings

Our monthly general meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month, September through May.

During the summer, June and July Meetings are held in Members' Gardens.

Meeting Agenda

- 6:30-7 PM Social time
- 7-7:30 PM Business meeting
- 7:30 PM Speaker program begins

Meeting Location

Our meetings are held at [Saint Simon's Episcopal Church](#) in their basement meeting space.

Saint Simon's is located at 717 West Kirchoff Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, and is right next to NW Community Hospital. There is ample parking next to the building. Enter the large west side parking lot and proceed to the west side of the building. You will see a sign, "Parish Hall," next to the stairs. Take the stairs down to the basement entrance. For those who are "stair challenged," you will enter at the parking level entrance to the right of the stairs and take an elevator down to the basement. There is a sign outside indicating the West elevator entrance. A club member will be there to assist you with the elevator. Click on [map](#) for directions.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Can You Name This Native Plant?

(Answer can be found on [page 16](#))



Found in Daniel Wright Woods by June Miller

Garden Club Membership Survey – 2024

Lew & Sheila Coffin | Membership Co-Chairs 2023/2024

Purpose

The survey was undertaken January/February 2024 to understand how members are utilizing their membership and their level of interest and participation in the club offerings. We also asked for interest in volunteering and leadership positions.

Conclusions

Gardeners are nice people. Our membership is interested in learning about gardening, conservation and protecting the environment, friendship and social activities, and community service. All in good alignment with the mission and activities of the club.

We had 51 responses, a 35% response rate, which is very good for an internal survey. Of these, 40% joined in the last two years and 75% joined in the last 5 years.

Education was the number one club activity that interests our members. Social activities and community service were almost tied as strong seconds.

Respondents really like the meetings and speakers. The club and state newsletters are highly read. Everyone contributing to the content of the newsletters and the organization of the meetings and programs should know that their efforts are highly valued by the membership. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Very few members utilize the Botanic Garden Membership discount, or the Club passes to the Botanic Garden.

Most respondents are not interested in leadership roles. The few indicating interest, are already on the board. This is understandable but the club does need member involvement to continue offering the excellent activities and programs that we all appreciate. The nominating committee will be reaching out by phone and other means, to inform club members of current volunteer openings.

Seventy percent of respondents felt that communications and their welcoming into the club were very good to excellent, with 20-30% scoring it as good. This is an area we will continue to work on. We can ask new members about their experience as we evolve our efforts, without re-issuing a full survey.

In the general comments section of the survey, a number of new members reported they came into the club to join friends but some that knew very few people, and some that were looking to make new friendships in the gardening community. We will continue to work at meet and greet efforts for the membership.

A number of respondents indicated they were reluctant to volunteer in Civics projects because of their knowledge level. We want all members to feel comfortable attending these outings. These are great learning opportunities and there are always experienced gardeners present who will share tips and knowledge. Everyone is welcome.

Action Items and Follow-Up

(1) Recruiting Efforts - from the survey feedback our recruiting efforts will focus on;

- a. Educational Benefits
- b. Social Activities
- c. Community Service Contributions (emphasizing that you don't need to know a lot to join in, we're friendly and willing to share knowledge).
- d. Will encourage members to invite friends to join (as with this current, free trial offer).

(2) Orientation of New Members

- a. Provide excellent communication and orientation information.
- b. Hold a periodic New Member social gathering.
- c. Personally connect with new members to help integrate them into the club. (with the help of the other committee leaders).
- d. Encourage interactions for new members with established members at meetings and events.

(continued on next page)

Amaranth

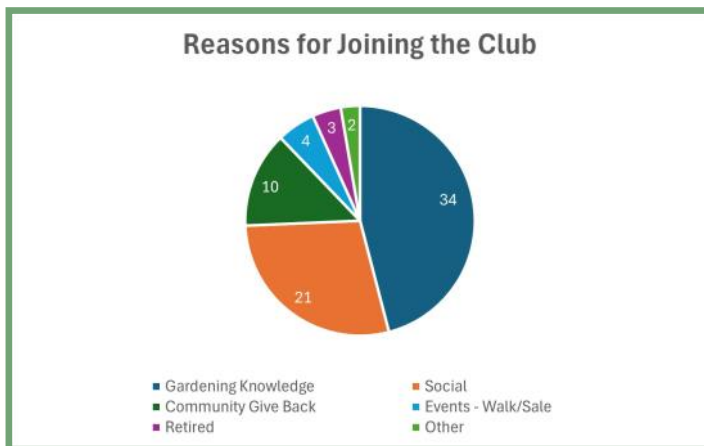
Garden Club Membership Survey – 2024

Lew & Sheila Coffin | Membership Co-Chairs 2023/2024

(3) Other

- a. We will follow-up individually on a couple of feedback comments that we received.
- b. A list of potential volunteers, based on survey responses, was provided to Beth Ligenza for the nominating committee.
- c. We gathered good info to create a database of club skills and interests. We should determine how to utilize this resource information.

We will share this summary report and a few slide highlights, at the April general meeting and members can find the full survey responses in summary graphs on the club website within the “membership tab”, hover over the “members only” link and you’ll see a



Signage for the Plant Sale

Judy Otis

It's time to think about volunteering for placing the signs for advertising the Plant Sale and Garden Walk. This year the committee would like to have the signs placed near the members home so they can be monitored. The signs should be visible near a corner, four-way stop sign or stoplight on a well-traveled street. At the April 22, 2024, Garden Club meeting, you will have the opportunity to sign up to place the two signs near your home.

You will receive both the Plant Sign and the Garden Walk Sign at the May 20, 2024 meeting in St. Simon's Episcopal Church basement. The Plant Sale Sign should be displayed at your location right after the meeting. The Garden Walk Sign should be displayed by June 9, two weeks before the walk.

If you have any questions about this new procedure, please contact Judy Otis via [email](#) or call 847-767-1393



Frost Dates

Juli Cicarelli | Horticulture

Successful gardens are often a combination of attention, hard work, creativity, science and just plain luck. We are often pleasantly surprised, other times we are disappointed. We think we did everything right, but somehow nature tricked us up.

In these past few years, it seems we have had an early spring warmth. The warmer temperatures and garden centers tempt us —should we or should we not plant and if so, what should we plant.

Science can help us make decisions. Research from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Extension, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and publications like the *Old Farmer's Almanac* address issues factors like climate change and weather patterns.

Based on information in the *Old Farmer's Almanac* this year the **last Spring frost in Arlington Heights will be April 25th** and the first Fall Frost will be October 22, for an estimated growing season of 179 days. Recently Spring dates are happening earlier than in the past. Researchers conclude global warming is a major factor in this trend.

The *Old Farmer's Almanac* notes that frost dates are only an estimate based on historical climate data. There is a possibility that a frost after the spring frost or before the fall frost date is 30%, so there is still a chance of frost occurring before or after the given dates. Still, maybe an earlier start this year, and a longer growing season for our plants.

The experts at Illinois Extension suggest holding off planting cold sensitive plants like tomatoes and peppers until late May, when nighttime lows are steadily above 45, usually mid-May. There are extremely hardy plants that are available now for planting early, like spinach, the cold temperatures in fact enhance its flavor.

As I write this on March 22, in Arlington Heights, it's 34 degrees with a steady snowfall after days of lovely Springlike weather. It was said that "You can't fool Mother Nature", but as most gardeners have learned, Mother Nature often fools us.

Resources:

[Old Farmer's Almanac](#)

[Midwest Climate Hub](#)

[Frost Dates and Spring Vegetable Planting](#)

Amaranth

Spring Compost

Giveback/Giveaway

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

University of Illinois Extension 100 US 45, Grayslake, IL



SOIL LOVES COMPOST...

So Let's Reap All of the Many Benefits of applying and incorporating Compost into your Spring plantings or yard... Vegetable Gardens, Flowerbeds, Landscaping, or Lawn. *Your soil will Love you for it!*

SWALCO & University of Illinois Extension Lake

County Master Gardeners will offer FREE

Local, made-in-Illinois COMPOST

for Lake County Residents

Visit the Ask a Master Gardener Booth while you are there!
Compost and Composting resources will be available as well!

Maximum of 15 Gallons per Household
Please bring your own buckets. Shovels provided. Compost is available as supply lasts.



"University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact our office at 847-223-8627. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs."



An IMPORTANT TEMPERATURE to remember: tomatoes can be planted in the garden when the soil temperature reaches 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Not Yet!

Invitation to Garden at St. Simon's

Dee Schurman and Mike Relaz | Civics

We received a very nice invitation to assist St. Simon's with their annual Spring Cleanup on April 27 from 9 AM to noon. Let's show our gratitude for the use of their lovely facilities by assisting with this event. You can come for as long as you like. Lunch will be provided. See below for the email we received. As always, bring your own tools per the weather. Please respond if you plan to join us so that I can provide a count to Jo for the lunch. Thanks in advance for all your hard work.

Dee Schurman

Mike Relaz

Dear Leaders of the Arlington Heights Garden Club,

We wanted to invite your membership to participate as we do our annual spring cleanup work day on Saturday, April 27 from 9am to noon.

The scouts will move mulch for us, but the finer points of garden care should be managed by more skilled / experienced hands.

We will provide lunch for those attending. Please provide an estimate of participants so that we can plan accordingly.

I would recommend bringing your own tools.

Many thanks!

Jo for the Building and Grounds Committee

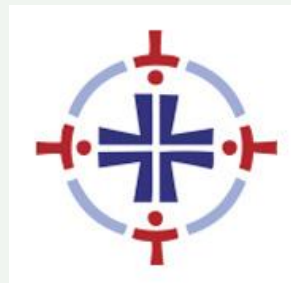
Jo Gantzer

Associate for Parish and Family Ministry

St. Simon's Episcopal Church, Arlington Heights, IL

Office phone: (847) 259-2930

office@saintsimons.org



Membership Renewal

Lew and Sheila Coffin | Membership

It is that time of year for the Arlington Heights Garden Club [Membership Renewal](#). The club looks forward to another exciting year with you! Our annual membership year runs from June to May. Membership dues fund our scholarships and educational programs, support a wide range of community causes, and reimburse our special celebrations. This past year our club obtained 501c3 not-for-profit status. All operating positions within the club are filled with volunteers.

Fees are due **on or before April 30th**. Your renewal can be completed online. An individual membership is \$25.00 annually and a couple membership is \$40.00 annually. Payment is by credit card or check. New this year - **no service fee** will be applied to payments using a credit card.

If you have trouble with the link, copy and paste this URL into your browser

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevHsL3sx8ve3_GZiI4QoNTWegFtgh7AAjAcQ3InsxZ81BRIQ/viewform

The 3-Month Trial Memberships expire on May 31st. There is an option to join AHGC with an individual or couple memberships. A new [Membership Form](#) must be completed and submitted and a payment selection indicated. Again, if you have trouble with the link, copy and paste the url above.

After completing your membership form, press **SUBMIT** and you will be directed to the credit card payment site. Complete the required information. Pay by **credit card** on the secure AHGC site.

OR

Pay by check made out to the Arlington Heights Garden Club.

Mail to:

AHGC - Sheila Coffin
1311 E Woodford Place
Arlington Hts, IL 60004

OR

Bring your check to the April 2024 meeting and give it to Lew or Sheila Coffin

If you have any questions, please direct them to Sheila or Lew Coffin.

Sheila and Lew Coffin

AHGC Membership Co-Chairs

ahgcmembers@gmail.com

847-917-1436

847-917-1437

The Arlington Heights Garden Club functions through the activities of many committees and volunteers. We have a very vibrant and well-organized club due to the leadership, diverse talents, and contributions of our club members.

Conservation Corner

June Miller | Conservation

Earth Day 2024

Celebrate the 54th anniversary of Earth Day on **Monday, April 22nd**. This national and global holiday focuses on the health and well-being of the whole planet including environmental issues, climate protection efforts, reducing carbon emissions, and minimizing waste. This year's Earth Day theme is "Planet vs. Plastics". The goal is make 60% less plastic by 2040. There are so many things we can do to honor this day and become good stewards of the earth.

- Use reusable grocery bags and drink and food containers.
- Reduce your outside light pollution.
- Create a pollinator garden using native plants.
- Share your native plants with others.
- Get rid of invasive plant species in you landscape.
- Minimize insecticide use.
- Take a hike in the forest preserves or walk around your local park or woods to see the beautiful spring ephemerals!
- See www.earthday.org for more ideas.



The Garden Club will be sponsoring a booth at the Earth Day Fair event at Olive-Mary Stitt School on April 23rd to plant seeds and inspire students to become future gardeners.

Earth Day Events

The Home Composter is recommended by expert composters. Key Features:

- Made of 100% recycled plastic
- Black to absorb heat quickly
- Easy to assemble
- Holds six to eight 30-gallon bags of yard material
- Long lasting
- Comes with "The Composting Cookbook"
- Not available in stores



Compost Bin Pick-Up

Arlington Heights residents (only) can *pre-purchase* a compost bin to be picked up at the Compost Giveaway event on **Saturday, April 20th**. If you would like to purchase a bin, you must pre-order your bin by calling 847-368-5500. Please note that quantities are limited. Cost is \$50.00.

Note: There is an **Illinois Compost Week May 5-11**. The theme is "COMPOST...Natures Climate Champion!" Their goal is to encourage composting from backyards to large-scale areas. Start early by getting your free compost!

Conservation Corner

June Miller | Conservation

Earth Day Events

Compost Giveaway!
When? Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Where? Arlington Heights Public Works Building, 222 N Ridge Avenue.
What should you bring? Residents should bring their own buckets (5-gallon recommended) for the compost (no bags).
Who? Arlington Heights Residents
Limited supply; First come, first served!
Working in Partnership with:




Join Us to Celebrate Earth Day

Date: Saturday, April 20; 9:00 AM—2 PM
Organized by: Northwest Cook County Sierra Club Group
Location: 100 Willow Rod, Wheeling, IL

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

(see poster on page 13)



Plastic Pollution Quiz

With the focus on Earth Day's theme of reducing plastic, SWANCC has fun quiz on their website to test your knowledge of plastic waste.

Take the [plastic quiz](#)

Upcoming Plant Sales

Citizens for Conservation's Native Plant, Shrub, and Tree Sale

Saturday and Sunday, May 4th and 5th, 9am-3pm
28th Annual Native Plant Sale
Hill 'N Dale Preserve W County Line Rd and Ridge Rd, Barrington Hills.
Visit their [website](#) for more details.



UI Extension Master Gardeners Lake County Plant Sale

Saturday, May 18, 9am-2pm
Extension Grounds, 100 South US Hwy 45, Grayslake
For more information: 847-223-8627 or visit their [website](#)



University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners
PLANT SALE
Saturday, May 18, 2024
9 am to 2 pm

Featuring a beautiful selection of nursery grown plant varieties not readily available in garden centers. This year, we are increasing the number of plants available but come early—these plants will go quickly!

- Native, New Cultivar of Perennials, Grasses, Pollinator Friendly Plants
- Vegetables, Herbs
- Garden Scissors
- Garden Advice from Master Gardeners

All Proceeds Support Extension Projects for Volunteers, Youth, Adults

Rate or Shine Cash, Check or Charge
Extension Grounds:
100 South US Hwy 45
Grayslake, IL 60030
847-223-8627

Conservation Corner

June Miller | Conservation

Recycling Events



Document Destruction (Shredding) and Textile Recycling Events (for SWANCC Community Residents)
Saturday, April 27, 9 am – 12 pm
 Forest View Education Center-Lot A, 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, IL

Arbor Day 2024

The National Arbor Day encourages us to recognize the importance of trees and their impact on the environment. Though the official day is on **Friday, April 26**, any day you plant a tree is significant. A tree provides us with clean air and water, cooling shade, habitat for wildlife, healthier communities, and endless natural beauty.

The Arlington Heights Village and the Park District invite residents to attend the 40th Annual Arbor Day Celebration on **Friday, April 26, 9:30 - 11 a.m.**, at Rand Berkley Park, at 2501 N Chestnut Ave. Enjoy a morning dedicated to honoring and appreciating the trees in our community, and embrace efforts to celebrate nature's beauty and contribute to a greener, more sustainable future.



Note: Due to the upcoming emergence of the brood 13 cicadas, the Garden Club has decided to delay this year's school tree planting event until early fall. This was based on the recommendations from the Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, and other sources. Please consider joining us for this celebration when the event is scheduled this fall.

Conservation Corner

June Miller | Conservation

Catch the Buzz and Wildflowers this May



Cicada Celebration & Exhibit Grand Opening

When: Saturday, May 4, 10 am- 4 pm

Where: The Grove National Historic Landmark, Archives Building

Celebrate the arrival of the Brood XIII Periodical Cicada! Explore the phenomenal lifecycle of the 17-year Cicada with a full day of educational fun for the entire family!

Science programs • Family Activities • Crafts • Exhibits & Artwork • Nature Walks • Giveaways



Wildflower Walk in May

Learn about spring woodland wildflowers on a casual walk.

Sunday, May 12, 1:30pm

River Trails Nature Center, 3120 Milwaukee Road, Northbrook

Call 847-824-8360 to register (by 5/10)

Annual AHGC Plant Sale, June 1st

Bob Bruett | Plant Sale Chair

We will be holding our annual plant sale at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum on Saturday June 1, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

This year we will again be selling plants dug up from our yards (for those who had their gardens checked last year) and seedlings we start from scratch. Please let me know what you are planning to dig up or grow so we have an idea ahead of time. I sent a note out to those who are approved for digging up from their back yard. If you are not one of those folks you can still dig up your plants, but you need to prepare them as described below.

Please plan on digging up plants early enough so they can adjust to the transplanting shock. If you need help with digging up your plants, we will find volunteers to help you just give me or Pete Landwehr a call as soon as you know.

For those who would like to dig up perennials from their yard you will need to follow a procedure which should eliminate any transferring of the worm eggs with the plants. This involves digging up the plants, washing the dirt off the roots with a hose and replanting in a sterile potting soil at least a month before the sale. These should not be kept on the ground to avoid any new worms from crawling in.

Our Plant Sale will include the above plants, vintage garden items, books, and other items.

Logistics for Plants

For those of you that will be digging or growing plants from seed you will need to:

- Let me know what kind of plants you have and counts
- I will print up labels for you and give them to you the week before the sale
- The Thursday before the sale (May 30) give the plants their last watering before the sale
- Put the labels on the dry pots and bring them to the museum on Friday (May 31) after 11:00am
- We will be setting up tables and pricing the plants Friday afternoon and evening

If you have any questions, please [email](#) or call Bob Bruett at 847-702-3124.

Happy Native Plant Month

Juli Cicarelli | Horticulture

The Homegrown National Park is challenging gardeners to a [1 Plant Challenge](#) starting April 1 through July 31. Their suggestion is to give your ecosystem “a bit of love” by adding one or more native plants.

Garden Scientists at the Chicago Botanical Garden are helping homeowners move beyond turf grass by testing lawn alternatives in trial plots. An article in [Garden's](#) spring publication, called “Rethinking Lawns”, calls lawns a problem, citing the enormous use of resources.

- Gas: 3 billion gallons per year, 3% of all U.S. gas consumption)
- Water: 9 billion gallons per day
- Herbicide: 53 millions per year

“There isn’t a lot of data behind alternative choices for lawns” said Becky Barack, Ph.D., the Garden’s conservation scientist who is leading the study. She adds people are talking about lawn alternatives: now we can give them the tools.

Garden scientists are studying how supportive each plot is to pollinators, and taking soil samples to test carbon storage. More carbon absorption means healthier soil and more carbon removed from the air.

The plots include: fine fescue grass, white clover mix, a sedge lawn with native sedges, grasses, and rushes, and two short-growing native meadow mixes that include wildflowers.

Visitors can view the plots south of the Shida Evaluation Garden. Rethinking Lawns is an experiment that hopefully answers questions like what if lawns supported pollinators? Or helped reduce local flooding? Or simply didn’t require all that mowing water, and herbicide?

Why not try the Homegrown National Park’s 1 Plant Challenge? Visit the Chicago Botanical Garden, view the plots, and talk to the experts. Happy April, and Happy Native Plant Month.





EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

9:00AM-2:00PM

(CHECK IN STARTS AT 8:30)

Join us for the annual Earth Day Celebration featuring

- Ecological restoration
- Complimentary lunch
- Special guest speakers



Senator Julie Morrison



Representative Mary Beth Canty

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/SCEarthDay2024> or use this QR



LOCATION: 100 WEST WILLOW ROAD, WHEELING IL 60900

- PARK AT THIS LOCATION (CRESCENT BRANDS' PARKING) AND FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO CHECK-IN AND RESTORATION WORK AREA, ALONG THE BIKE PATH
- PLEASE COME IN FULLY-COVERED CLOTHES, STURDY SHOES OR WATERPROOF BOOTS IF YOU HAVE THEM
- BRING REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLES AND WORK GLOVES IF AVAILABLE
- THIS IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT, SO WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO YOU BRING ALONG EVERYONE YOU CAN!

EVENT SPONSORS:



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Nominating Committee

Lew Coffin | Nominating Committee Chair

Request for Committee Leaders

The nominating committee this year consists of Barb Franks, Sue Streich, Ingrid Erickson, Cathy Kostel and Lew Coffin. We have been making calls to members to gauge interest in the open club positions. We have a great club because of the enthusiastic volunteers and leaders, past and present, who have shared their skills and time. Position terms normally last for two years and will begin September 2024.

The following table identifies the open leadership roles. Keep in mind that as a leader of these teams, you coordinate volunteers from the team and/or general membership and have support from outgoing leaders and the garden club president and board on an ongoing basis. There is plenty of documentation and support for anyone taking on a new role. New position leaders may choose to volunteer with a friend or another club member.

Please consider where your skills and interests lie and join the other great leaders in the club by taking one of the open roles. We need volunteers to lead our activities and keep our healthy club moving forward.

Available Roles September 2024 – September 2026

Position	Brief Description	Status
Artistic	Plan 1-3 club workshops per year and co-ordinate holiday tree decoration and take down.	Open
Civics	Coordinate volunteers for civic beautification projects (Post office, Clearbrook House, Viatorian Garden, and the Historical Museum)	1 of 2 spots Open
Garden Walk	Coordinate volunteer teams, to plan and run the annual garden walk fundraiser. There are a large number of experienced volunteers on the support committees.	1 or 2 spots Open
Newsletter	Compile submissions each month (excluding summer) to publish the electronic club newsletter. Transition and training help will be provided by the outgoing publisher.	Open
Vice President	This is a development role, working with the president to learn all functions of the club. Has intent to become a future president.	Open
Programs	Obtain program speakers for the general meetings. There is an active team that contributes to the programing. In search of a leader to coordinate the efforts.	Open
Secretary	Record minutes of monthly board meetings. Provide a summary for publication in the monthly newsletter. Issues occasional correspondence on behalf of the club.	Open
Scholarship	Promote the scholarships to area school contacts, coordinate a team of club reviewers to select scholarship nominees, communicate with applicants at various stages of the process.	Open
Conservation	Educate the club on conservation activities in the area. Represent the club at Earth Day programs and tree planting ceremonies.	Open
Plant Sale	Coordinate a team of volunteers to plan and operate the clubs plant sale fundraiser.	Filled by Pete Landwehr

As part of our process, the nominating committee will reach out by phone, text, or email to our club members. We look forward to connecting with you to ensure that all members are aware of these opportunities (no pressure – we promise).

Lew Coffin, Nominating Committee Chair | 847-917-1437 | ahgcmembers@gmail.com



Spotlight on Three Committees

Horticulture, Artistic and Programs

Feedback from our recent membership survey highlighted how much our members enjoy the educational aspects of the club, citing the newsletter, monthly program speakers and events as valued learning opportunities. This month, we're featuring three functions that all contribute to the educational benefit of our members. There is active collaboration and support among the members on these three committees and this year there are openings for new committee members and leaders. Please consider whether you would like to join any of these committees!

Horticulture Committee: The Horticulture Committee advises the club on developments in the areas of Gardening, Horticulture and Environmental Preservation. The Committee uses the group meetings, the club newsletter, and website to share and highlight these areas of interest. Through its seasonal articles provided to the newsletter, the horticulture committee informs the membership of related learning opportunities throughout the year. If you are the type of person who loves gardening knowledge and wants to share this knowledge with others through our newsletter or formally or informally at meetings, the horticulture committee may be perfect for you.

Artistic Committee: The Artistic Committee brings the artistic, creative flare, and garden-related workshop ideas to the club membership for their participation. The Chair coordinates workshops with the input and assistance of the committee members. Some examples of past workshops have included:

- Holiday Wreath Making (November)
- Winter Holiday Container (November/December)
- Mosaic Projects (spring/summer)
- Seasonal Container (spring/summer)

The committee also helps with table center pieces or decorations for the summer picnic, holiday party, and the garden walk and organizes the set up and take down of the community holiday trees. This is an ideal committee for right brain thinkers who are artistic and innovative thinkers and are brimming with new ideas. This committee is ideal for left brain thinkers as well who are great organizers! A fun opportunity for any interested members.

Programs Committee: The Program Committee works with its Chair to select presentation topics and recruit presentation speakers. Using club input, the committee members select presentation topics for the club meetings from September to November and from January through May. The Committee Chair with its committee creates a program guide for each of the presentation topics including descriptions, presenter biographies, and photos. This work is completed for the entire year in advance of the September meeting. In the past the committee has partnered with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library for some joint program offerings. The committee and its chair work closely with Publicity and Website to communicate all program offerings to the club members. If you are a connector or enjoy the hunt for high quality speakers and programs, you may want to consider being part of the programs committee.

Feel free to reach out to [Lew Coffin](#) or [Beth Ligenza](#) at for more information on opportunities to join any of these three committees. Be sure to include your committee of interest in the subject line.



Open Days Gardens

On July 27 from 10 AM to 4 PM there will be some spectacular gardens open including: one in Highland Park, one in Mettawa (which is the home of Bill Kurtis the well known newscaster) and two in Highland Park.

Tickets are available at the [Garden Conservancy](#) website. If there is interest please feel free to contact Alan Johnson by [email](#) and we can arrange to meet up at one of the gardens at a set time or car pool.

Tickets available May 1st, 2024

Officers

President	Beth Ligenza
Vice President	(open position)
Secretary	Halina Zbilski
Treasurer	Sharon Rudy

Committee Chairs

Artistic	(open position)
Civics	Mike Relaz
	Dee Schurman
Club Awards	Kathy Hendricksen
Conservation	June Miller
Garden Walk	Jean Kengott
	(co-chair open position)
Horticulture	Juli Cicarelli
Hospitality	Cathy Kostal
Membership	Sheila Coffin
	Lew Coffin
Newsletter	Mona Frisbie
Plant Sale	Bob Bruett
Programs	Nancy Asquini-Dean
	(co-chair open position)
Publicity	Connie Landwehr
Scholarship	Emma Visee
Website	Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez

Project Coordinators

Lew & Sheila Coffin	Northwest Compass Garden
Claudette Norwell-Philipp	Student Partnership

Using Egg Shells in Your Garden

Denise Suender



Hopefully you have been saving your egg shells for the garden. If not it is never to late!

Just a few suggestions to get as much out of them and benefit from the calcium, potassium & magnesium they provide!

Great addition in your soil for many plants including tomatoes & roses!

Recipe

- First spread out the egg shells on a cookie sheet and roast at 400 degrees for 10-15 minutes to dry them out.
- Then grind them to a powder in the blender. This will help them break down sooner rather than left whole!
- Mix the powder in a bucket of soil till your ready to add them to your garden. This helps the powder start to breakdown sooner or just add to your soil when planting your plants!



Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MUSEUM AND GARDEN PASS

The library provides you with passes to Museums and Gardens in our area

[Check it out](#)



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SEED SWAP

April 28 Sunday 12-2pm Dunton Avenue Entrance

Bring your extra seeds and bulbs to swap for the first swap of the season.

Master Gardeners from the University of Illinois will be on hand to answer gardening questions.

SWAPS are the first Sunday of each month April through September.



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

ADULT EDUCATION

Visit [website](#) for details



THE MORTON ARBORETUM

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Visit [website](#) for details



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

CLEANUP & PREPARATION FOR GROWING SEASON

Local Master Gardeners from University of Illinois Extension will provide you information on what your lawn and garden need in the spring to prepare for the growing season. Tips will include conventional and environmentally friendly gardening approaches.

April 30 7-8:30pm [Registration required](#).



PROSPECT HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Commissioners from the Prospect Heights Natural Resources Commission

Thursday, April 25 @ 7-8:30 PM Live and Zoom

Register [here](#)



AMERICAN HORTICULTURE SOCIETY

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

[Website](#) for more information



Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CHALET

EVENTS & CLASSES

Click [here](#) for more information



PROSPECT HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPRING GARDEN PREPARATION TOOLS

Monday, April 29 @ 2-3:13 pm

Register [here](#)



COMMUNITY EDUCATION DISTRICT 214 COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO OHARA IKEBANA

Mondays April 29-May 20 @ 6-7pm ONLINE \$49 fee [Register](#)

POWER VEGETABLE GARDENING

May 3 @ 7-8:30pm \$49 Fee [Register](#)

PLANT YOUR OWN HERB GARDEN

May 8 @ 7-9pm \$79 Fee [Register](#)

UNUSUAL, EXOTIC & MEDICINAL HERBS

May 15 @ 7-9pm \$25 Fee [Register](#)



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Webinars for Gardeners

Click [here](#) for more information



WILD ONES

PARKWAY PLANTINGS: NATIVE GARDENS IN URBAN ZONES

Sunday, May 19 @ 2:30-4pm Virtual

[Register](#)



Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

[River Trails Nature Center](#) | Northbrook
[Busse Woods](#) | Take a Hike in Ned Brown Preserve
[Crabtree Nature Center](#) | Barrington



SCHWEIKHER HOUSE

PEONY SEASON WILL SOON BE UPON US
Plan to visit the [SCHWEIKHER HOUSE PEONY PARTY](#)
Saturday, June 8TH 1-4pm
Upcoming [Events](#) at the Schweikher House
Short [Video](#) overview of the Schweikher House



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Gardeners Corner Spring 2024 [Read the articles](#)

Spring 2024 Gardening Guide from the [University of Illinois Extension](#) includes:

- Cicadas
- All American 2023 Flower/Vegetable Winners
- Composting in Spring
- Planting Windbreaks
- Replace those Callery Pear Trees
- Adding herbs to floral bouquets
- Recognizing heat-related warnings signs while gardening
- PLUS the Podcast Grow something new with us

Large-flowered Bellwort

(Uvularia Grandiflora)

June Miller / Conservation

Large-flowered Bellwort, also known as Merrybells, is one of the first woodland flowers to emerge in spring. This charming perennial plant is native to most of Illinois and is in the lily family. The yellow bellwort's bright green leaves are oblong to oval and surround the smooth stem. A single stem pierces a large leaf and then splits into two. One produces a flower while the other is sterile. The flowers droop from the curved stem and the six soft yellow overlapping tepals twist and flare at the ends which sway with the slightest breeze. This makes it look like a "nodding botanical ballet". The flowers bloom mid-April through mid-May. After flowering, the seed pods hang like a pendant against the oval leaf. Unlike ephemeral spring flowers, the stems lengthen and resemble needles after flowering and dropping its seeds. The stems and leaves last throughout the summer. This is a great plant for a woodland, wildflower, or shaded garden.

Growth	12-24" in height and 12-18" in spread
Sun Exposure	Partial to full shade
Hardiness	Zones 3-7
Soil	Medium dry to wet moist, fertile soil is ideal. Usually Bellwort is found in woodlands. Plant as a bare root in early fall.
Invasive	It spreads slowly by rhizomes and forms colonies. Not overly invasive.
Wildlife Benefit	Bumblebees, sweet bees, and mason bees feed from the nectar and collect pollen from the flowers.



Treasurer's Report

Sharon Rudy | Treasurer

Arlington Heights Garden Club Treasurer's Report March 2024

			Checking	Savings	
Account Balance 2/29/24		Stmt Date	\$ 2,365.16	\$ 4,653.63	
Receipts:					
WIX:					
Memberships; T Karow, B. Ligenza		3/1,3/10	50.00		
UB Vendor; Boom, Compton, Barsema, Saraf		3/1,3/10,3/21	200.00		
GW Tickets; 6		3/1,3/20	90.00		
Pitts duplicate payment - see below			50.00		
Deposits:					
UB Vendors; Lorens, Pollyarts		3/13/2024	100.00		
District IX Awards		3/13/2024	100.00		
UB Vendor; J&S - Foster		3/25/2024	100.00		
Helen Dawley memorial donations		3/25/2024	175.00		
Transfer of funds		3/29/24	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	
Interest Income				15.21	
less: Credit Card Fees			(16.47)		
Total receipts			1,848.53	(984.79)	
Disbursements (cleared):					
	Check #	Ck Date			
GCI District IX annual meeting for 4	1037	2/21/2024	220.00		Registration for 4 members
Cathy Kostal Reimbursement	1040	2/26/2024	17.57		Reimb for coffee for meeting
The Garden Clubs of Illinois	1041	2/27/2024	100.00		Advertising - Plant Sale, GW & UB
Jennifer Suszek scholarship	1042	3/25/2024	2,000.00		2023-2024 scholarship
Total Disbursements			2,337.57	-	
Account Balance 3/31/24	Per Bank		\$ 1,876.12	\$ 3,668.84	
Receipts to be deposited					
Total undeposited receipts			\$ -	\$ -	
Open checks written but not cleared					
	Check #	Ck Date			
Fast Signs	1043	3/29/2024	482.68		50/50 Plant Sale and GW
Sheila Coffin reimbursement	1044	3/29/2024	40.13		member tags
Pitts refund in transit via WIX		3/29/2024	50.00		UB vendor paid twice
Total outstanding checks			\$ 572.81	\$ 3,668.84	
ADJUSTED CASH POSITION NFP	3/31/2024		\$ 1,303.31	\$ 3,668.84	
Total Adjusted Cash at	3/31/2024			\$ 4,972.15	

AHGC Board Meeting Notes - April 8, 2024

Halina Zbilski | Recording Secretary

Treasurer – Sharon Rudy

- Receipts are coming in from membership dues, Unique Boutique vendors, Garden Walk tickets, sponsors, and District Awards. A scholarship was also paid out. Between our savings and checking accounts, the total adjusted cash at the end of March is \$4972.

Civics – Mike Relaz and Dee Schurman

- Volunteers are needed to clean up at St Simon's on April 27th, from 9 am to 12 noon. VFW along with a few volunteers will do a spring cleanup at Clearbrook on May 4th. We need volunteers to maintain the gardens at Clearbrook, Post Office, American Legion, Viatorian garden, and the Historical Museum. The Pampas grass will be removed at Clearbrook tomorrow, Tuesday, to take advantage of 5 free unstickered landscape bags the third landscape week in April.

Conservation – June Miller

- The volunteers that assisted last year on Earth Day at Olive School were contacted for their help this year. Mike has made a bird house for the Earth Day raffle.
- More Garden Club flyers will be printed for the Compost Giveaway at Public Works to be held on April 20th, from 9 am to 11 am.
- Since cicadas are more likely to attack young trees during springtime, it was recommended to wait until fall to do the school tree planting. Construction at some schools might be completed by fall as well.

Garden Walk – Jean Kengott

- Payment has been received from approximately 26 U/B vendors so far. Several members are in the process of contacting additional vendors, because we have 48 potential booths
- Internet connections were a problem last year. Since the library checks out hotspots, but we cannot reserve them, we need some volunteers to book some hotspots for 3 days of Farmers' Market, Plant Sale and Garden Walk days.

Membership – Sheila Coffin and Lew Coffin

- Membership survey slides will be presented at the April general meeting. Approximately 35% of members responded to the survey.
- Currently we have 150 members, 5 of which were a result of a free trial membership from March to May. The membership sign up drive runs through the end of April, so all members are encouraged to sign up online and pay their membership fee either online or via mail. Also sign up can be done at the April general meeting by filling out a paper form.
- Job descriptions for chairs and board members will be placed in the "members only" section of the website.

Plant Sale – Bob Bruett

- Greeters are needed at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 25th, and will pass out plant sale/ garden walk flyers. Four greeters are needed during the 8am – 10 am slot, and 4 are needed at the 10 am - noon slot.
- Anyone needing pots for the plant sale can contact Jim or Pete. Labels for the pots will be printed by Bob after we furnish him with plant names and counts.

Programs – Nancy Asquini-Dean

- At the meeting with the Program committee volunteers, several different ideas for the 2023/2024 year were presented, along with a couple library programs. The program committee will regroup at the end of the month.
- The April library program is "Birding in Barrington and Beyond" by Luke Dahlberg.
- There is an additional library program that may be of interest to garden club members. On April 30th, the topic is Spring Landscape Clean up and Preparation.

Publicity – Connie Landwehr

- Brenda has filed the permit for our club to be in the Memorial Day parade. Brenda is working on obtaining seed packets to staple with the plant sale/ garden walk flyers which will be passed out at the parade. Stapling will be done at the May meeting, since it is earlier than usual.
- Pete is obtaining all plant sale/ garden walk signs from Judy, and will be updating them. Because so many signs were taken last year, we will need volunteers to sign up at the April meeting who are willing to have signs placed in their front lawn. Members who live on busy streets are encouraged to sign up. Signs will be distributed at the May general meeting.

Scholarship – Emma Visee

- The Scholarship committee along with Beth reviewed the candidates and chose 3 final recipients, 2 of which received scholarships in past years. Beth will write up thank you letters to all scholarship candidates.

(Continued on next page)

AHGC Board Meeting Notes - April 8, 2024

Halina Zbilski | Recording Secretary

Business/Old Business/Announcement

- Two elementary schools Ivy and Greenbrier have been selected to receive Garden school grants per Kathy H.
- 20-25 members have been called by the nominating committee so far in an effort to fill chair and board vacancies. An email blast will also be conducted, and an appeal will be made at the April meeting. 3 or 4 members have expressed an interest so far.
- Eagle Scout Jordan Leyva from Troop 166 is requesting a donation of \$100 to rent a tiller, to transform a 12' x 30' island at Our Savior's church parking lot into a wildflower pollinator garden. If there are excess funds, money will be returned to the garden club. The project was approved by the board.
- More suggestions were made of how we can memorialize Helen Dawley, since we have received additional memorial donations. Also the memorial should be respectful of Helen's family wishes. Money spent must be aligned to our club's bylaws, and therefore a decision will be postponed until we consult with Jack Vrett, our attorney.
- St. Simon's is inviting the AHGC to bless and celebrate our club as part of their Sunday liturgy on April 21st at 9:30. Anyone can attend, and they are requesting 2 volunteers to do a scripture reading.

Next Board Meeting: May 13, 2024