



## September Issue 2024

### Greetings from Our President

I'm excited for the start of another club year and the kick off of our fall club programming. It's been a busy summer since we last met- our most successful plant sale, despite the rain; a fabulous and well attended Garden Walk; two home garden hosted summer meetings; our delicious summer picnic! In addition, many of our members helped to keep up our Civic endeavors throughout the summer.

- The Post Office on Euclid has needed and received a lot of hard work into landscaping the grounds. The Post Office does very little in terms of maintaining the property, so all the efforts to take care of the trees, weeds, beds and planters are greatly appreciated. It's an on-going battle, and the group working there has made tremendous strides.
- The Clearbrook house we help to maintain is a wonderful support to the adults who live there. Please let Jim Spannagel know if you'd like to learn more.
- The Viatorian Clerics Giving Gardens are growing and giving! We have donated 85 pounds of produce to several food pantries and there is a lot more still on the vine maturing. Tomatoes, beans, peppers, zucchini, cucumbers, eggplant and sweet potatoes were planted this year. A decision was made last year to convert one of our adopted beds into a pollinator garden. This became an Eagle Scout project supported by the club and will support all of the garden beds in the summers to come!
- Work continues at the Northwest Compass Gardens to make it a place of bounty and relaxation for their clients. Thank you to everyone who helps make these undertakings work.

I hope to see everyone at our first meeting on Sept 23 at St SImon's- we have great programs in store for our members this year, kicked off by our own Pete Landwehr teaching us about Shade Gardening!

Hoping for a few more warm sunny days, rain when we aren't planning to to outside, and looking forward to the beauty of fall in our yards and community.

*Beth*

### Fall/Winter Meetings

- September 23
- October 28
- November 25
- December Holiday Party

### Inside This Issue

Presidents Message .....	1
September Program .....	2
Garden Walk Review .....	3
Nominating Committee .....	4
Membership Report .....	5
Mini Field Trips .....	6
Peonies Article .....	7
Conservation@Home .....	8
CFC Native Plant Sale.....	8
Webinar Series .....	9
Jumping Worms.....	9
Civics Update .....	10
Northwest Compass Garden ....	11-12
August Picnic .....	13
Odds and Ends .....	14
Derbyline Trip .....	14
List of Officers .....	15
Education .....	16
Places to Visit .....	17
Board Meeting Notes.....	18-19

## September Program

Monday, September 23

### Shade Gardening

Presented by Pete Landwehr

Pete has been a Master Gardener since 2014 and has been raising vegetables for over 30 years. He has been involved in the University of Illinois Conservation@Home program since its introduction in 2016. He started the weekly summer Master Gardener answer desk at the Arlington Heights Farmers Market where he and fellow Master Gardeners volunteer answering gardening and landscaping questions. He started the Catholic Charities vegetable garden in Des Plaines to raise fresh vegetables for their food pantry. Retired from a 40 year accounting career, he now devotes his time to helping others learn and enjoy gardening.



This presentation will discuss the art and science of gardening in the SHADE! There are a number of options to shade gardening besides hostas and ferns. He will help you create a palette of shade loving plants to create a long season of color and interest. Pete will address the challenges that arise due to our changing climate yet help you create a relaxing space that connects you with nature.



### September Garden Chores

Review the [list of things to do](#) in your garden this summer

## 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

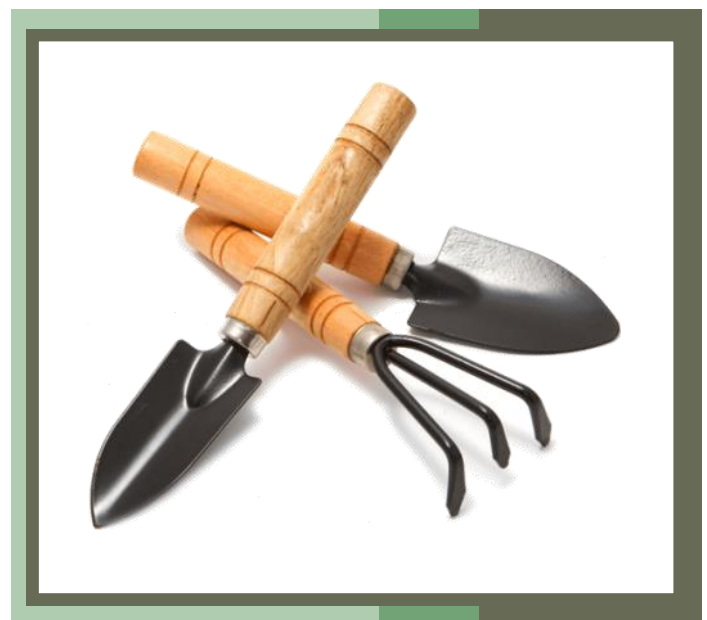
7:30 PM Speaker program begins

### 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.



# 2024 Garden Walk

*Jean Kengott | Garden Walk Chair*

What a wonderful Garden Walk and Unique Boutique we had this year!! Thanks to all the hard work from our amazing Committee Chairs and all our volunteers, our wonderful homeowners, our diverse vendors, and to Mother Nature who blessed us by cooling off the heat a bit, and gifting us with only a tiny bit of rain.

This year's Garden Walk included five private gardens, one public garden, and 37 Unique Boutique vendors. We also had 3 musical groups play at the boutique, with two first time musical groups who shared their upbeat music with us! The 2024 net profit for this year's event was \$9,019.55 and we sold 458 tickets, with a majority of tickets bringing in a higher rate due to being sold on the day of the event (maybe poor weather forecasts are not so bad?). Both totals were higher than those of 2023.

For this being my first year as a solo chair, I would like to thank everyone in the club who shared their knowledge, answered my endless questions, and provided such incredible support. It is hard to express my gratitude for all who helped put on the event, from our incredibly professional committee chairs and members who work so independently and who care so passionately that the Garden Walk\Unique Boutique is a success, to the many volunteers who worked so hard and were flexible and willing to give their time to get whatever was needed done – you are the ones who truly deserve all the recognition for the 2024 Garden Walk/Unique Boutique's achievements!!

Thank you so much for making this year's event our most successful Garden Walk/Unique Boutique to date.

*Jean*



# Nominating Committee Report September 2024

Lew Coffin | Nominating Committee Chair  
847-917-1437

Special thank you Ingrid Erickson, Sue Streich, and Barb Franks for their work on the 2024 nominating committee. Almost all the positions are filled for this year and the new committee leaders officially assumed their duties September 1<sup>st</sup>. Their names are listed in the membership report in this month's newsletter and on the website.

There are two chair positions and one co-chair position yet to be filled. There is a brief description below of each of the three open positions in the event you may have an interest in them. They are flexible in terms of how you want to shape the role and the time you have available to commit. All roles receive support from club member leaders and volunteers. For more information, without obligation, please contact Lew Coffin (847-917-1437) or Beth Ligenza (847-337-0734).

## OPEN Positions for your consideration

**Artistic** – This role typically organizes one to two events per year, utilizing outside experts. Past events have included wreath decorating and flower arranging. In addition, the chair issues a call for volunteers for the Holiday Tree set-up and take-down schedule for the Arlington Hts. Memorial Library, Village Hall, and Senior Center. This is always a fun event and is well supported by volunteers.



**Conservation** – This role provides very important information to our club on developments in conservation. In the past, this information has been shared in newsletter articles and informative display boards at monthly meetings. The chair coordinates a team of volunteers who may be able to divide the workload, and each contribute some form of communication to the club. The Conservation chair helps to coordinate the events surrounding Arbor Day with the support of club volunteers. This is always a terrific school-based event that provides outreach to the future custodians of our planet.

**Garden Walk** – A co-chair helps to run this fund-raising event with current co-chair Jean Kengott. The annual garden walk is the largest fundraiser the club operates and typically engages 50-60 volunteers. There are several sub-committees and well-documented procedures and historical notes that make this event so successful. Please consider becoming a co-leader role with Jean.



**Hospitality** – Currently, Cathy Kostal coordinates the hospitality function and is seeking a co-chair to assist. The co-chair role involves setting out the beverages and treats for our monthly meetings, coordinating the meeting treat schedule, purchasing vendor breakfast meals for the annual Garden Walk, and organizing the summer and December club social events. All this is done with the help of a hospitality committee volunteers.



# Membership Report September 2024

Lew & Sheila Coffin | Membership Co-Chairs

Welcome to another year with the Arlington Heights Garden Club. The club membership currently stands at 128 members.

For new members and those still exploring their interests in the club we provide the following list of members that are leading various functions and committees. Please reach out to anyone on this list to find out how you can get involved. You will find contact information on the website (Members Only section). There is a full range of volunteer possibilities including light physical gardening, conservation planning and research, scholarship review, fundraising events (plant sale and garden walk), administrative support or providing a treat for a monthly meeting.

For all members and especially our new members, we highly recommend getting involved with at least one committee. It is a great way to meet other club members, contribute to the beautification of the village, give back to the community, and continue to expand your gardening skills no matter what level of gardener you may be. Time commitment is highly flexible and because of the variety of committees, you can contribute in a way that works for you!

We have an organized and efficient club because of our active membership. Your involvement is highly appreciated, even if you only have a little time to spare.

## 2024-2025 List of Committees and Chairs



- Artistic – OPEN\*
- Conservation – OPEN\*
- Garden Walk – Jean Kengott, Co-chair OPEN\*

\*Contact Lew Coffin at [ahgcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:ahgcmembers@gmail.com) or 847.917.1437 if you are interested in learning more about these OPEN positions.

Civics – beautification and maintenance of public gardens

- Arlington Hts. Post Office Site - John Baruch, Mike Relaz
- Viatorian Garden – Beth Ligenza
- Arlington Hts. Historical Museum – Kathy Wolan
- Clearbrook House – Jim Spannagel, Mike Relaz
- Northwest Compass Inc – Sheila and Lew Coffin

Horticulture– Juli Cicarelli

Hospitality – Cathy Kostal

Newsletter – Aileen Koeppen

Plant Sale – Pete Landwehr

Programs – Ingrid Erickson

Publicity – Connie Landwehr

Scholarship – Clara Gong, Linda Falotico

Website – Rose Marie Lesniak – Mendez



### Board Leadership

- President – Beth Ligenza
- Vice President – Lew Coffin
- Secretary – Sue Streich
- Finance – Sharon Rudy

Sheila and Lew Coffin

Membership Committee

[ahgcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:ahgcmembers@gmail.com)

847-917-1436 (Sheila)

Amaranth

## Mini Field Trips ....

### Prospect Heights Slough

We had a great walk through the Prospect Heights slough on Wednesday August 7th. It was a beautiful evening and about 14 people attended! Agnes and Dana, the leaders of restoration work described the process of restoring a natural area that was overgrown with buckthorn. They brought back native plants and made an overall improvement in the diversity of life. We saw the area where they grow native plants, places with pollinator plantings and an artist area where displays of nature theme works are displayed. There will be workdays and lecture dates in the near future that will be conveyed to membership as they are made available.

Alan Johnson



### Tropical Garden

The neighbor of a club member invited the rest of the AHGC to tour his yard. It was a tropical garden! The home owner was very knowledgeable and imaginative in his approach to gardening . Yes, those are banana trees!





# It's Time To Transplant Peonies

By Terri Passolt

9/7/2018 e-edition.dailyherald.com

Peonies are one of the few perennial flowers that prefer transplanting in the fall and September is the best time!

Peonies are a common Midwestern plant. Their history goes back to cultivation in China over 2,500 years ago. Through continued breeding programs, peony popularity has blossomed to include hundreds of improved cultivars, which have stouter, sturdier stems that do not require staking and many show good disease resistance.

How often should peonies be divided? Peonies don't require regular division for successful blooming the way many other perennials do, but there are several reasons to divide and transplant peonies.

If peonies exhibit a continued lack of flowers over several years, the cause can be too much shade as tree growth overtakes what used to be a sunny garden. Peonies are sun lovers and require six to eight hours of sun a day. Without it, the plants survive, but do not thrive. Plants may also struggle if the soil is too moist. Peonies prefer a sunny, well-drained area in your garden. Also avoid mulching peonies as it will make the soil on top of the "eyes" too deep and they will not bloom.

Begin by cutting back the stems as you would do for fall cleanup. To divide peonies, grab a spade to first dig the hole where the peonies will be placed. With a garden fork, trench around the plant at least 10 inches away from the perimeter stems of the clump.

Depending on age of the plant, the roots may be quite large and woody. With a garden hose wash off the dirt from the clump and gently use the spade or a heavy knife to divide. Make sure each division contains three to five eyes; fewer eyes may cause plants to need three to five years to bloom. The eyes actually look more like pink "noses," which are the shoots for the next season.

Plants should be planted away from competition with trees and shrubs. To encourage air circulation, leave sufficient room between plants, allow at least 3 feet between plants on center.

The eyes should be planted only 1 to 2 inches deep, making sure the pink eyes are pointing up. If planted too deep, the plant will produce foliage and no flowers; if planted too shallow, the eyes will freeze and die back in the winter.

Press down on the soil to remove any air pockets. After planting, water well, every two weeks to allow the root system to develop before winter.

By selecting early and late season peonies, the flower period can be extended to six weeks. Peonies are long-lived plants and multiple divisions is a great way to share them with your friends and neighbors.



The Conservation@Home program recognizes and certifies residential properties that demonstrate environmentally sound landscape practices and offers resources and further education to help homeowners and community members implement these practices. Learn more about the [program](#) here.

Aileen Koeppen, an AHGC member and our NEW newsletter editor, just had her yard certified as practicing CONSERVATION @ HOME. If you are interested in helping protect water, air, and wildlife and would like more information to certify YOUR yard, CONTACT:

Aileen Koeppen [aileenkoeppen@gmail.com](mailto:aileenkoeppen@gmail.com)

Pete Landwehr [pct19061@gmail.com](mailto:pct19061@gmail.com)

Bev Krams [bevkrms@gmail.com](mailto:bevkrms@gmail.com)



## Citizens for Conservation



### Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale

*Fall is an excellent time of year to plant trees and shrubs because the soil is warm and the air temperatures are cool,*

- *Online pre-order sale runs from September 1-30.*
- *Pre-order only. No additional plants will be available for sale.*
- *Pick-up will occur on Saturday, October 19 at Hill 'N Dale Preserve from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.*



Everyday Environment is back and we're talking about climate change

[Click here to see this online](#)

This fall, the Everyday Environment webinar series is growing to include a podcast and a blog. For our inaugural season, we're focusing on climate change.

Come with us on this journey to explore what climate change is, how our environment is responding, how our human health is affected, and what can we do about it.



#### Jumping Worm Update:

As part of our plant sale fundraiser efforts, we pre-screen yards of people who may donate plants next year. It is important that we have confidence we are not spreading the invasive jumping worm. Jumping worms are currently active in soils now that it is warm and we've had some rain. Out of eight yards screened this year, we have found them in three yards, so they are out there in our area.

If you plan to donate plants next year that you dug in your yard, we need to screen your yard in the next few weeks. If you are not sure if you will donate or just want to know if you have them, we can also screen your yard. Anyone who was screened last year or donated plants last year is already on our list. Otherwise, [email](#) me and I will add you to the list. The 15-minute procedure is simple and you don't need to be home.

Thank you.

*Pete Landwehr*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
TECHNICAL FORESTRY  
BULLETIN REGARDING  
INVASIVE JUMPING WORMS

[CLICK HERE](#)



## Civics update from our President:

John Baruch, Mike Relaz and several regular volunteers have been working hard at the post office on Euclid all summer. Trimming the trees on the property was a big focus this year, as they were all overdue for some significant maintenance that the post office had not completed in several years. Thank you to the team for stepping in and partnering with Public Works to pick up the large amount of branches. The flower beds and pots were updated with annuals and perennials. The team is working to develop a relationship with the post office in hopes that they can increase the maintenance on the sidewalks and parking lots areas. We appreciate the ongoing efforts to make this area more pollinator friendly, as well as more welcoming to the community.



The Viator Gardens were planted in June and we have been donating produce to various food pantries in the area starting in July. Tomatoes, cucumber, peppers, beans and zucchini are all being harvested from the vegetable bed we "adopted". Thank you to all the volunteers who water and harvest each week. The other bed we manage has been planted as a pollinator garden, which will benefit all the beds in the community garden area. This planting was taken on by an Eagle Scout candidate as his project. Thank you to Pete Landwehr for his time and advice to the scout during planning and planting. The club donated plants from the plant sale, as well as from a few members yards. We will fill in as needed next spring as the garden comes back for it's first full season.



## Northwest Compass Living and Giving Community Garden – One Year Later



In the spring 2023, Lew and Sheila Coffin and Patty Joyce were working on a small makeshift vegetable garden which ran adjacent to overgrown beds of irises, hostas, buckthorn, and zebra grass located in the back space of Northwest Compass Inc. It was at this time that they planted the idea that the garden could be improved perhaps with the help of AHGC members. Then in July 2023, Northwest Compass received a \$22,000 grant from NAR-Mainstreet Community Outreach Place Maker, sponsored by Baird and Warner to create a community garden onsite. With the assistance and ongoing support of AHGC members Mike Relaz, Dee Schurman, Nicole Jagielski, Sue and Mike Streich, Shelley Plischke, Jim Spannagel, June Miller, Julia Hart, Patty Joyce, Pete Landwehr, Cathy Kostal, and Lew and Sheila Coffin, the garden's initial installation was completed in the span of 7 weeks. Julia Hart spearheaded additional support from her colleagues at Baird and Warner. The result was the creation of a garden including two raised vegetable beds, native plant gardens, a cut flower garden, a shade garden, bird feeders and houses, a composter, two rain barrels, water features, a worm composter, a shed, accessible pathways, and an outdoor teaching space.

In the spring 2024, Patty Joyce helped to secure additional grant funding from Citizens for Conservation in the amount of \$651 allowing for the expansion of the native plants' footprint within the garden. Nicole Jagielski held a container garden workshop for the staff and community focusing on how to create a garden when space is limited. Many members of the AHGC helped to open the garden for the season by planting the raised beds, cut flower gardens, and native gardens and assisted in a fall planting and clean-up day in early September.

In August 2024, Nancy Kreith and Amanda Anderson, from the Illinois Extension visited the garden and gave us tips on how to extend our growing season and provided native plants including Purple Coneflower, Hollow Joe Pye Weed, Ironweed, Prairie Dropseed, Swamp Milkweed and Wild Bergamot that will be added to the front of the building extending the garden's beauty. They also provided Northwest Compass with a donation of a Garden Harvest Bucket to help keep track of produce donations. The kit included a food grade bucket, hanging scale, digital scales, garden pruning shears and scissors along with other supplies. Directions for weighing and harvesting the produce from the raised beds and containers were also included. Looking ahead, Northwest Compass hopes to coordinate its programming with Illinois Extension educators to provide further support for the community and the clients.



## Northwest Compass Living and Giving Community Garden – One Year Later Continued

Amidst all this fun, the Northwest Compass Living and Giving Garden won District IX and State awards for the Arlington Heights Garden Club. What a year this has been, and it shows what can happen when a seed is planted!

Northwest Compass Inc is a non-profit organization serving those in our community who are housing insecure, homeless, food insecure, and victims of domestic violence. They provide housing assistance, finance management workshops, computer skills training, and operate a food pantry daily at their location at 1300 W Northwest Hwy, Mount Prospect, IL 60056.

Stop by to view the garden anytime as it is open to the community. If you want to get involved helping to sustain this garden or if you have an idea for an educational workshop, please contact Lew Coffin or Sheila Coffin at [ahgcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:ahgcmembers@gmail.com) or call 847.917.1437 (Lew).

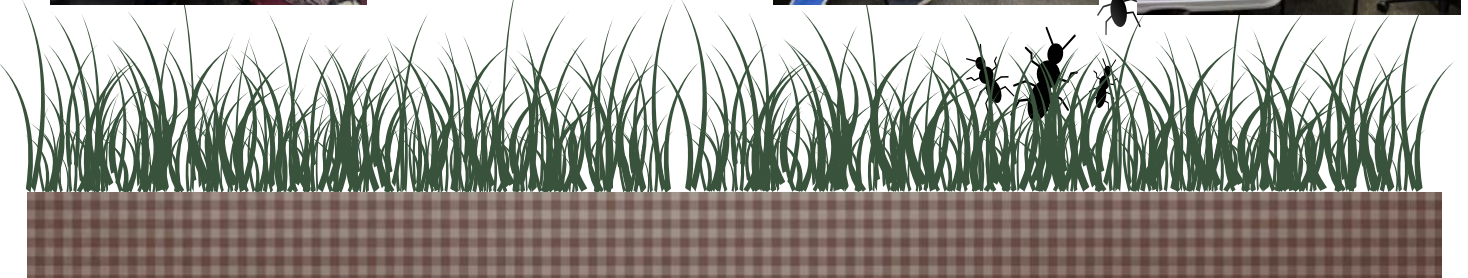


## August Picnic— Cathy Kostal Hospitality chair

95+ degrees. Sunny. 60% humidity. Heat index for our area was well over 100 degrees. Perfect day for a picnic! Actually it was - indoors at the Arlington Heights Historical Society.

We had approximately 60 respondents plus a few welcome extras. Members brought an abundance of cheeses, dips and spreads. Pat Dennehey made her famous deviled eggs. There were some delicious side dishes, authentic gazpacho, watermelon arugula salad, pasta salads and various other salads. Mariano's fried chicken was the main course followed by numerous tasty desserts. Our Members also furnished drinks, helped set-up and cleanup afterwards. We also had some beautiful mum and kale plants that were given away as door prizes.

Many thanks to all who attended, donated a food item and lent a hand in making this a great party. Having it indoors was a little cozy, but so comfortable!



# Odds and Ends

## Movie Night

### NATURE SPEAKS FILM SCREENING: WHY NOT SCOTLAND

October 23 7-8:30 pm Zoom or in Library  
Register



Finding places where nature is making a dramatic comeback, revitalizing human communities and encouraged by these stories of hope and renewal, Flo is prompted to wonder: if this



## ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### GARDEN AND PRODUCE SWAPS

September 22, Sunday 12-2pm Dunton Avenue Entrance

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

SWAPS are the first Sunday of each month through September

**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Gardeners Corner**

Read the Fall Gardeners Corner Issue

**GardenGlories**  
The Official Publication of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.

[Click here for access to Garden Glories fall issue](#)





### Officers

---

President	Beth Ligenza
Vice President	Lew Coffin
Secretary	Sue Streich
Treasurer	Sharon Rudy

---

### Committee Chairs

---

Artistic	<i>( open position )</i>
Civics	Mike Relaz John Baruch
Club Awards	Kathy Hendricksen
Conservation	<i>( open position )</i>
Garden Walk	Jean Kengott <i>( co-chair open position )</i>
Horticulture	Juli Cicarelli
Hospitality	Cathy Kostal <i>( co-chair open position )</i>
Membership	Sheila Coffin Lew Coffin
Newsletter	Aileen Koeppen
Plant Sale	Pete Landwehr
Programs	Ingrid Ericksen
Publicity	Connie Landwehr
Scholarship	Linda Falotico Clara Gong
Website	Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez

---

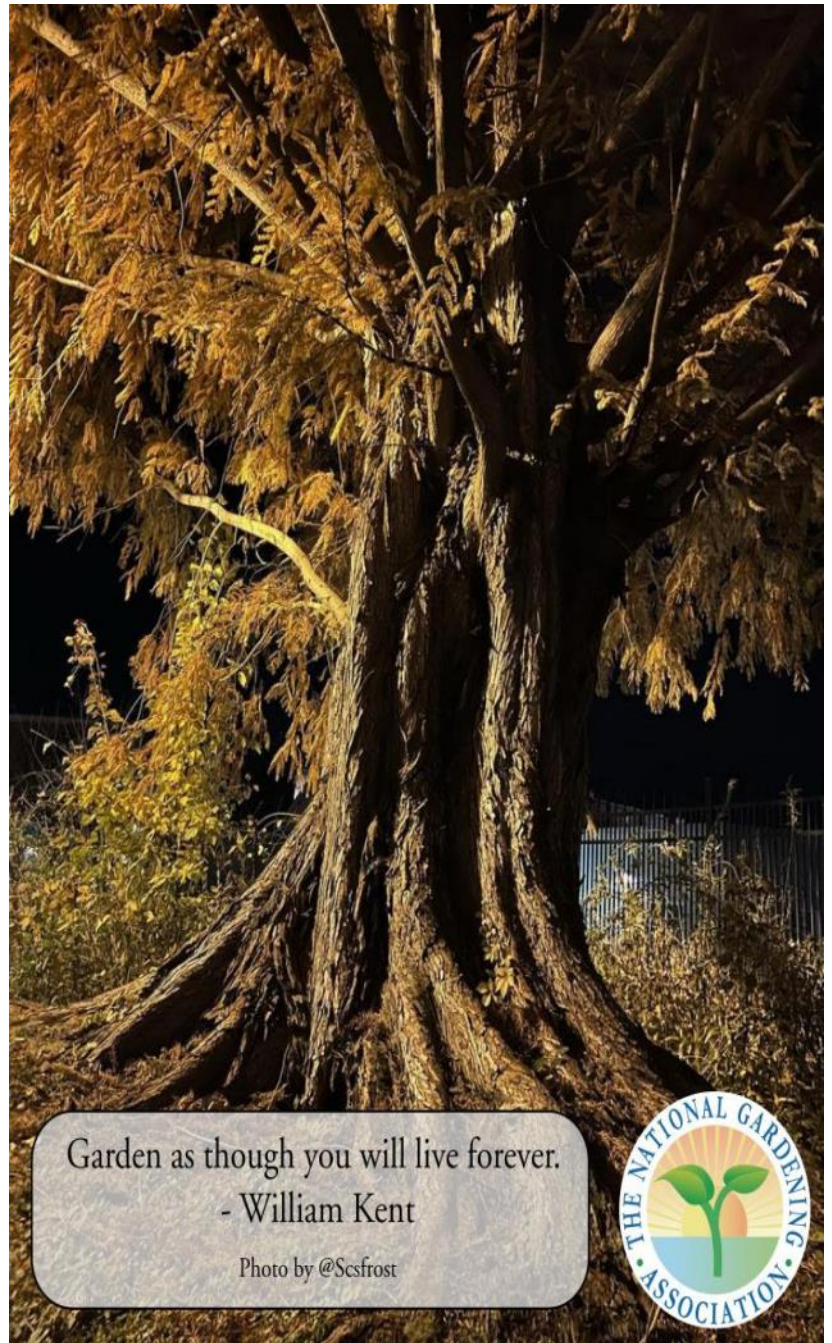
### Project Coordinators

---

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

**Arlington Heights Garden Club**

Website: [ahgardenclub.com](http://ahgardenclub.com)



Garden as though you will live forever.  
- William Kent

Photo by @Scsfrost

# Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Chalet

[Classes on Houseplants](#) and more



### Community Education:

**[CREATING GIFTS WITH HERBS](#)** Harper College Register October 7 6:30-8:30 pm

**[Preserving the Harvest](#)** Prospect High School October 8 7—8:30 pm

**[GARDEN OF DOOM](#)** Rolling Meadows High School October 10 7—8:30 pm

**[Post Harvest Activities](#)** Rolling Meadows High School November 7 7—8:30 pm

### THE MORTON ARBORETUM

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Visit [website](#) for details



### AMERICAN HORTICULTURE SOCIETY

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

[Website](#) for more information



### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Webinars for Gardeners

Click [here](#) for more information





# Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams

## Places to Visit

### CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Take advantage of the AHG Clubs **PASS to the CBG!**

[ENJOY THE GARDENS!!](#)

The PASS will give you Free Parking,  
TWO Entries to the Railroad Garden, Butterfly & Blooms, a  
ride on the TRAM, and a 10% discount in the cafeteria.

Email Sharon Rudy ([gardenclubsharon@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubsharon@gmail.com)) to make  
arrangements to use the pass.



### SCHAUMBURG PARK DISTRICT

[SPRING VALLEY NATURE CENTER](#)



**SCHAUMBURG  
PARK DISTRICT**

### FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

[River Trails Nature Center](#) | Northbrook

[Busse Woods](#) | Take a Hike in Ned Brown Preserve

[Crabtree Nature Center](#) | Barrington



### McHenry County Farm Stroll...FREE!

[September 29, 2024](#)

10 family owned farms. One student farm.



*All gardening is land-  
scape painting.*

*Horace Walpole*

# AHGC Board Meeting Notes - September 9, 2024

Sue Striech / Recording Secretary

## Arlington Heights Garden Club Board Meeting Notes Monday, September 9, 2024

### President—Beth Ligenza

- Eagle Scout project- Viatorian Garden – the scout finished his planting in July and put in a pollinator garden in one of our two beds, which will benefit all the gardens in the area.

### Treasurer—Sharon Rudy

- The budget will be reviewed at the next meeting. We need to create a budget for the next fiscal year that begins September 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have a separate meeting for the budget review.
- Discretionary Donation Committee is also needed to decide where our donations go in October. There are specific rules around these donations.
- There is a reimbursement form on the website. If you have expenses you need to be reimbursed for, please submit it through this form the same month that you have the expense.

### Civics—Mike Relaz and John Baruch

- Mike and John have been working at the post office and trying to improve it. It is a real challenge when you look at the whole campus. They have spoken with the postmaster and not much has happened other than getting a sign replaced. Perhaps we can go to some trustees or one of our representatives to talk to about it. We should have a planning meeting over the winter.
- Jim discussed Clearbrook House in Mt Prospect. He was told that the Mt Prospect house was the best maintained. The work we've done there is very much appreciated.
- We've harvested 85 lbs of produce already this year at St Viator.

### Garden Walk— Jean Kengott

- Date for the 2025 Garden Walk is June 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Membership—Sheila and Lew Coffin

- Membership Headcount - There are currently 128 AHGC members.
- Member Volunteer Interests - At membership renewal time, we ask all members to indicate their committee interests. We compile and forward this information to all committee chairs so that committee chairs can reach out to these people for inclusion in your event or activity planning.
- Spotlight on Committees (Newsletter Article) - A decision was made among the past year's board members to highlight all committees, in a rotation, in a standing newsletter article. The purpose is to explain the function of the committee and to motivate members to volunteer to assist with upcoming committee events or needs. Over the course of the year, all committees are featured, and club members will come to understand very well how the club functions.
- Lifetime Member proposal – In the past someone who has contributed significantly to the club has been recognized. It would be good if we have some specific guidelines. It was determined to have a separate committee to discuss protocol for recognition going forward. Lew Coffin will organize a small group to recommend a policy on Lifetime Board membership.
- Discussion regarding promoting donations to the club since we are now designated as 501C3.

---

### Plant Sale—Pete Landwehr and Jim Spannagel

- Seven of the 20 yards tested, we have found jumping worms. There are 19 more to be screened which will be done soon.
- Last plant sale we had over 1,000 plants dug from yards and 42% of those plants came from those homes that we have found jumping worms in their yard.
- There was a committee put together to discuss the issue prior to today's board meeting. Many members look forward to our plant sale and our knowledge of those plants
- The annual proceeds have been somewhere around \$5,000 a year which is a main funding source for the club
- Our concern is that we may be spreading jumping worms through the community. We've developed procedures to pre-screen yards or if we haven't screened the yard, require they bare root the plant, rinse the plant and put it in a sterilized pot.
- We check a few places in each yard and are finding them mostly in compost bins. They could still have them even though we checked a few spots.
- It's a significant issue if we spread jumping words from the plants.

# AHGC Board Meeting Notes - September 9, 2024

Sue Striech | Recording Secretary

- The plant sale funds are what we contribute to other organizations. The scholarships and operating expenses could be covered with the garden walk.
- Suggestions:
  - Poster at the plant sale about our procedures to screen for them and bare root planting as a disclaimer.
  - The group that met feels we need to cut back the plant sale to exclude plants dug from yards. That was 75% of the plants from the plant sale last year.
  - We could buy plants for resale.
  - We would also need to make sure people clean the pots.
  - We need to protect the garden club.
  - We can continue with house plants, cuttings and plants grown from seed.
  - We could not have the plant sale and consider other options for raising money. We are limited to two fund raising events per year.
- Pete and Jim are going to continue checking houses. Pete is going to see if perhaps we can rent some space at a greenhouse and grow some plugs.
- We have some time to determine what we're going to do.

## **Programs—Ingrid Erickson**

- Programs have all been set for the year. January and March will be at the library. Updated programs for 2024/2025 will be posted on the website.

## **Publicity—Connie Landwehr**

- Photo Policy – waiting for the policy from Garden Clubs of Illinois. In the interim, no photos of children or non-members should be taken for use by the club.
- We discussed not having the treasurers report on the newsletter because the newsletter is public. The board determined the treasurers report should be password protected.
- Photo archives – Need a new volunteer for this. Connie is going to put something in the Oct newsletter requesting someone to handle that and who would be willing to be a club historian.

## **Scholarship- Clara Gong and Linda Falotico**

- Nothing to report yet but Sharon confirmed all three from last year were paid.

## **Website—Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez**

- Programs will be updated on website. Job descriptions and treasurers report will be put on the members only section.

## **New Business/Old Business/Announcements**

- Blue Star- Need Village to approve revised j-Dot location. Beth will follow up and get it okay'd. Jim said we need to start talking about a dedication ceremony sometime around Veterans Day.
- Beth found a grant from state of Illinois we might be able to apply for. Keep your eyes open for grants.
- Dist. IX- Treasurer nominations – they are looking to fill the role. If you know anyone who might be a candidate.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 pm.

Next Board Meeting: October 14

Minutes submitted by Susan Striech, Reviewed and approved by Beth Ligenza