

Arlington Heights garden club

December Issue 2024

Greetings from Our President

On behalf of the entire Arlington Heights Garden Club board, I'd like to wish you and your families and loved ones all the best for the holidays and coming new year. I'm looking forward to celebrating our club in December and enjoying everyone's company.

2025 will have many opportunities for the club to gather, learn together and make a difference in our community, and I look forward to doing that with all of you.

Beth



Fall/Winter Meetings

December 16 Holiday Party



January 27

February 24

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January Program

Monday, January 27

Homegrown National Park

Doug Tallamy

In conjunction with AHML

Registration (no library Card required)

[Watch Party; Hendrickson Room at the Library](#)

[Via Zoom](#)



Professor and author Doug Tallamy presents Homegrown National Park: a national challenge to create diverse ecosystems in our yards, communities, farms, and surrounding lands by reducing lawn, planting native, and removing invasives. Learn the importance of native plants, how to choose them, and how to introduce biodiversity at your home and in your community.

Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 111 research publications and has taught insect-related courses for 44 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

His book [Bringing Nature Home](#) was published by Timber Press in 2007, [The Living Landscape](#), co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014; [Nature's Best Hope](#), a New York Times bestseller, was released in February 2020, and his latest book, [The Nature of Oaks](#), was released in March 2021. His awards include recognition from The Garden Writers Association, Audubon, The National Wildlife Federation, Western Carolina University, The Garden Club of America, and The American Horticultural Association. Doug lives with his wife, Cindy, on their restored property in Oxford, PA.

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.



Photo by Stephen Barten



December Garden Chores

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

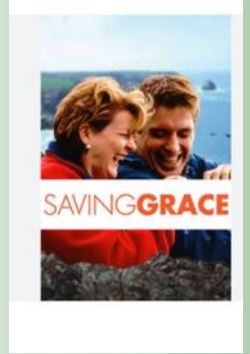
Movie Suggestions... Replacing Gardening during the winter with GARDENING MOVIES

Bev Krams



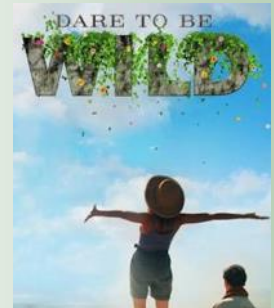
SAVING GRACE (2000)

A British comedy about a widow looking for an income after her husband dies. She comes up with a plan to grow a 'cash crop' in her 'ginormous' greenhouse, which is to die for! Great for gardeners looking to review their skills of growing, breeding, pruning propagating and just the pure love of plants!



DARE TO BE WILD (2015)

Got a 'little' Irish in you? Well this film is based on an Irish gardener who 'dared' to win the Chelsea Flower Show as the youngest winner at 28. She was also the third Irish winner in the shows 89 year old history. See how she designs, constructs and invites more 'wildness' into your garden. Throw in a little love story and you have a PERFECT gardening movie!!



A Word About Our Door Prizes

Each month at our AHGC monthly meetings we have a tradition of offering a door prize. This door prize tradition has been able to continue because of the generosity of several members who have donated items each month. If you are interested in donating a door prize item, please notify Sheila and Lew Coffin at ahgcmembers@gmail.com or by phone at 847.917.1436 (Sheila) in advance of the meeting so we can confirm the number of items being donated each month. Then all you do is bring the item to the monthly meeting. It is a simple as that. We will look after the rest! Thanks to all the members who have donated items thus far. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Membership Report

Lew & Sheila Coffin / Membership Co-Chairs

Our club membership is currently at 133 members. On occasion a member may benefit from an outreach during a difficult time (illness, hospital stay, death in the family) as well as on a celebratory occasion. On these occasions the Membership Committee sends out cards on behalf of the Arlington Heights Garden Club. If you are aware of situation where outreach would be appropriate, please contact Sheila and Lew at ahgcmembers@gmail.com with the details or by cell at 847.917.1436 (Sheila) or 847.917.1437 (Lew).

Thank you for joining with us to spread little bouquets of hope and joy!



Discretionary Donations

Sharon Rudy / Treasurer

Due to our very successful Plant Sale and Garden Walk events last year, the Garden Club is pleased to make donations to nonprofit organizations that support conservation, ecology and beautification. A total of \$4,000 has been granted to 13 nonprofit organizations plus allowances for scouts and local school gardens.

The recipients include Arlington Heights Historical Society, St. Simon's Episcopal Church, Northwest Compass, Greener Good, Garfield Farm Museum, Missouri Botanical Garden, Citizens for Conservation, Save Our Monarchs Foundation, Tree Fund, The Grove Heritage Association, Openlands, Alliance for the Great Lakes, and the Archaeological Conservancy. We are happy to share the funds we acquired from the community with nonprofits that benefit our community and our partners that make our Club events successful.



Jim Spannagel and Beth Ligenza putting the Viatorian Garden to bed

Northwest Compass - Living and Giving Garden Closing

On a chilly October morning, members of the AHGC gathered at the Northwest Compass Living and Giving Garden to do the fall cleanup of the gardens. The team planted garlic. They packed up the fairy house, garden gnomes at the toad abode, and wind chimes that are whimsical items that children love when they visit the garden. All signage and the rain barrels were cleaned and dismantled and put into the shed for the winter. All hostas were cut down to 2-4 inches and leaves bagged for composting at the municipal site. Approximately 20 bags of herbs, lettuce and peppers were harvested from the raised containers and large pots and taken into the onsite food pantry to be added to the food boxes. All hoses and timers were disconnected, drained coiled and stored in the shed along with valve headers, splitter valves, and programmable timers. Cottonwood leaves (large and not easily compostable in the beds) were cleaned up. The native beds were thoroughly weeded, one last time before winter. All bird houses were cleaned out for the winter. Mulch was put down around the recently planted native plants in the new front bed around the locust tree.

There was an enormous amount of work completed in a short time thanks to all the members of the Arlington Heights Garden Club who volunteered their time and expertise to this clean up. Every time a group of volunteers meet, we all continue to learn from each other by sharing our knowledge. In addition, club members always have fun working alongside one another and it was great sharing a coffee and donuts when the work was done!



Back row: Lew Coffin, Nicole Jagielski, Joe Weber, John Baruch, Rita Hall, Mike Relaz

Front row: Sue Streich, Anne Gorman, Pete Landwehr, Clara Gong, Cathy Kostal

Missing from Photo: Patty Joyce, Sheila Coffin



Suet Feeders Attract Birds in Winter

MEGHAN SHINN Horticultural Magazine

Suet feeders can be a great way to attract many back-yard birds in winter, when this high-calorie, easy-to-digest food provides them with much needed energy. Here are the key tips to follow when offering suet to your favorite garden birds:



This upside-down suet feeder discourages squirrels. Shown feeding at it is a downy woodpecker.

- Look for suet made from rendered beef fat, which is generally less prone to turning rancid or growing bacteria than suet made of raw fat or substitutes like peanuts and corn.
- Suet cakes come in different shapes and sizes and may be studded with different kinds of seeds, fruits and nuts. Experiment to see what mixtures attract various birds in your yard.
- To protect suet from squirrels and starlings, offer it in cage-style suet feeders. Styles that require the bird to hang upside down to eat are most discouraging of squirrels and larger birds. Nuthatches, woodpeckers, chickadees and other songbirds can access these with ease. Other specialty suet feeders include a tail prop, which helps woodpeckers feel comfortable.
- Stop offering suet once the weather warms up. At that time, clean out the suet feeders and stuff them with nesting material instead.



GARDENER'S NIGHT BEFORE

Anonymous

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the yard,
Not a vegetable was growing, not even Swiss chard.
The hoses were stored in the cellar with care
And I, rest assured, knew they wouldn't freeze there.
The perennials were mulched, all snug in their beds.
While visions of springtime danced in their heads.
The new planted shrubs had been soaked by the hose
To settle their roots for the long winter's doze.
And out on the lawn, the new fallen snow,
Protected the roots of the grass below.
When out in the drive there arose such a clatter,
I ran with my hoe to see what was the matter.
And what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a truck full of useful gardening gear.
Saint Nick, the driver, so plump and so jolly,
Jumped out of his truck with a sack full of holly.
"I've brought trimmers and clippers and tubers and seeds,
And landscape fabric to eliminate weeds,
Well-aged manure, strained finely for spreading,
Just what you need for your annual flower bedding;
And colorful flagstones for a new garden path;
And for birds and bird watchers, a feeder and bath.
I've an insect pest guide to help you to know
Which of the bugs will cause plants to grow slow,
A new sprayer to fill with safe soap and oil;
a floating row cover—there are insects to foil!
For gardening with ease, I've a new rototiller,
Pads for your knees and organic bug killer.
For pH detecting, here's a soil testing kit
For soil preparation that's sure to be a hit;
A new mulching mower for grass blade clipping.
And a long soaker hose that saves water by dripping."
With jolly Saint Nick's gift giving complete,
He started his truck and took off down the street.
And I heard him exclaim through the motor's loud hum,

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a green thumb!"



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS **Holiday trees** will be collected on your solid waste collection day from December 30, 2024 - January 10, 2025. Landscape waste stickers are not necessary for trees. Plastic bags and all décor must be removed from trees.



Broken or unwanted string lights may be recycled at Arlington Heights Public Works November 2024 through February 2025. Call 847-368-5760 for more information



NEW THIS YEAR!

Arlington Heights WINTER Farmers Market

Saturday December 14, 2024

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Corner of Vail and Freemont

Many, vendors will be there such as Cailin's Little Bakery, Cuban Brothers Coffee, LLC, d'Vine Wine and Gifts, Ice Cream Girl, Luciana's Kitchen, St. Roger's Abbey...

FROSTIVAL

During the market from 10 am to 1pm the AHPD Winter Frostival will be running. Shop and then check out the fun at the [Museum](#)



Recycled Christmas

Donations

Drop off your.....

Gently used Christmas decor of all kinds.

Donations will be accepted in January 2025

Sundays 9-11am January 5, 12, 19, 26th, 2025

Wednesdays 9-1pm and 5-7pm January 8, 15, 22, 29th, 2025

First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights
1903 East Euclid Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL, 60004

[MAP](#)

Thanks to everyone who made Recycled Christmas 2024 a HUGE success for
the
and
Mission!
Women's
Children's



Spotlight on Hospitality

This is a busy time of year for Hospitality! Besides our monthly meeting, we are preparing for our annual Holiday Party on Monday, December 16th at St. Simon's. We are finalizing our entertainment, catering and decoration plans. Inventory is also being checked for any additional supplies that we will need. We will also be creating all the table decorations this year after we receive the extra greens from the Winter Greens planter event next Monday.

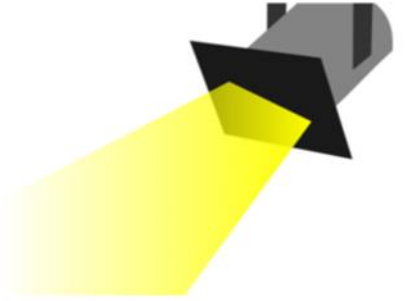
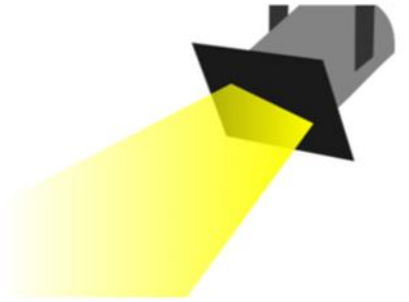
We want to make this event as special as possible for everyone. If you are interested in attending, please make sure to sign up via the sign up form on our website. If you have any questions, or want to sign up with me directly, I can be reached at 630.487.9240 for texts of calls, rosealyssum@yahoo.com for emails.

I hope to see you there!

Cathy Kostal



PRIOR YEAR PARTY





Senior Center



Please join us for the last tree in need of decorating and also for taking down all of our trees.

Decorating : December 9th at village Hall at 10:00 am

Take down dates:

January 3rd, Village Hall at 10:00 am

January 4th, Library at 10:00 am

January 10th, Senior Center at 10:00 am

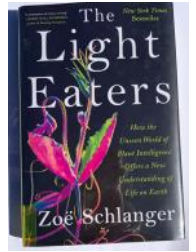
Library





Book Review — Juli Cicarelli

The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth



Did you know the plants can see light, can hear a caterpillar munching on them, move away from danger, change appearance to survive, and communicate with animals, insects, and other plants. This “plant intelligence” is researched, investigated, and explained by author Zoë Schlinger in the book, “The Light Eaters”.

We humans think we are smart, thinking we can dominate this earth. But we couldn’t survive without plants and recognizing that fact means we need to understand how they survive in order to protect them. Three interesting examples of plant intelligence are discussed in the book.

In the early 1900s, a Soviet agronomist discovered that rye weeds in the wheat fields started to look like the wheat plants. It was at first a scraggly, inedible weed, but some rye plants began to to mimic themselves to look like wheat. The wheat farmers would no longer pull those rye plants as weeds. Over time, rye itself flourished and became a food crop.

David Rhodes, a zoologist and chemist at the University of Washington watched the University’s experimental forest get decimated by tent caterpillars. But the caterpillars suddenly stopped munching and died. The trees which the caterpillars had started eating had turned their leaves into a poison killing substance which killed the caterpillars. But what was remarkable was that trees who were first attacked warned other trees who hadn’t been attacked. Those trees changed their leaves and weren’t attacked. The trees were signaling to each other, Rhodes wrote, across long distances, through the air.

Plants have sounds, ultrasonic frequencies. Scientists have put up microphones to wheat, corn, grape wines, and cactus. Each species of plants have their own frequency. A cactus sounds very different from a grape. Also clicks sounded very different in sounds from a stressed , dehydrated plant and a watered healthy one. A cry for help maybe. A tomato when drought stricken made thirty-five sounds per hour, versus a healthy plant , with fewer than one click per hour on average. A healthy tomato plant is a quiet plant.

The author concludes “A single plant is a marvel. A community of plants is life itself. It is the evolutionary past and future entangled into a riotous present in which we ourselves are also entangled. This stretches the mind. Plants give us the chance to see the system in which we live.”



Officers

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



Committee Chairs

Artistic	(open position)
Civics	Mike Relaz John Baruch
Club Awards	Kathy Hendricksen
Conservation	(open position)
Garden Walk	Jean Kengott (co-chair open position)
Horticulture	Juli Cicarelli
Hospitality	Cathy Kostal (co-chair open position)
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

Gardening Knowledge

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Chicago Botanic Garden

The Gardener as Artist: Online class. You will discover plants and art in public and private gardens. January 28, 6—8 pm

[Click here for website.](#)



Final Cleanup at Clearbrook. From left to right are Mike Relaz, Clara Cong, Lew Coffin, Bob Levenson and Rita Hall.

Gardening Knowledge

Places to Visit

THE CHICAGO BONTANIC GARDEN

Lightscape ...November 15th 2024 through January 5, 2025

An illuminated trail for enchanting winter nights

[Click Here](#)



THE MORTON ARBORETUM

Illumination: Tree Lights at the Morton Arboretum

[Click Here](#)



FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

[Cuba Marsh](#) | Deer Park

[River Trails Nature Center](#) | Northbrook

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

[Crabtree Nature Center](#) | Barrington



Cuba Marsh



Crab Tree Nature Center



Busse Woods

AHGC Board Meeting Notes - November 11, 2024

Sue Streich / Recording Secretary

Arlington Heights Garden Club Board Meeting Monday, November 11, 2024

Attendees: John Baruch, Lew and Sheila Coffin, Ingrid Erickson, Jean Kengott, Clara Gong, Cathy Kostel, Connie and Pete Landwehr, Beth Ligenza, Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez Sharon Rudy, Sue Streich

President - Beth Ligenza

- There will not be a board meeting in December.

Secretary - Sue Streich

- Minutes for the month of October were approved.

Treasurer - Sharon Rudy

- We added three new members to the club roster.
- October treasurer's report was approved.
- The Discretionary Donation Committee met. We anticipate giving out \$10,000 total for scholarships and discretionary donations.
- The budget for 2025 was approved.

Artistic - Beth Ligenza

- Winter Greens workshop update – 27 people have signed up to-date (Nov 11th). This count does include a hand full of guests that are on a waiting list until the deadline given for members to sign up.
- Kathy Wolan and Mike Relaz will be coordinating the holiday tree decorating schedule.

Civics - Mike Relaz and John Baruch

- We are looking for a new person to lead the Viatorian garden next season. John will make an announcement at the next meeting.
- Beth said they cleaned the Viatorian garden for the fall. There was a seminar given on composting and included donated compost. The compost was put down and leaves were used to mulch the pollinator garden.
- Mike, John and Jim met regarding the Post Office and will plan the work to close it up for the season. John will be looking for some evergreen branches to decorate with. A date for decorating will be issued shortly.
- Connie asked for some pictures with garden club people in them for publicity when they decorate the Post Office.
- Lurvey's gave Northwest Compass \$1,500 worth of seeds, plants and mulch. etc. There will be left over seeds from Northwest Compass that can be used for the Viatorian garden in the spring.
- Kathy Hendrickson volunteered to coordinate the tree planting for spring and Beth and Kathy will coordinate the Olive School Earth Day Event.

Conservation - OPEN

Garden Walk - Jean Kengott

- Jean is putting together a document outlining the responsibilities for the Garden Walk and will share it with anyone interested in helping.
- She's working on the rental form for the Historical Society.
- Jean has found some interesting vendors to approach for the Boutique.

Horticulture - Juli Cicarelli

- No update.

Hospitality - Cathy Kostel

- Cathy has a sign up for the holiday party that is on the website. She asked Beth for an email to go out to let our members know about the party and where to sign up.



AHGC Board Meeting Notes - November 11, 2024

Sue Striech | Recording Secretary

Membership - Sheila and Lew Coffin

- There are 133 members as of November 11th.
- A new approach to door prize donations by members will be implemented. Guidelines will be published in the December Newsletter.
- A proposal was made for member recognition and was approved by the board.

Newsletter - Aileen Koepfen

- There will not be a November newsletter. A December newsletter will be issued this year instead.

Plant Sale - Pete Landwehr

- Preliminary plans are underway for the 2025 Plant Sale.

Programs - Ingrid Ericksen

- Due to the holiday party in December, the next program will be in January. The presentation will feature Doug Tallamy, held jointly with the Arlington Heights Public Library. Attendance is available in person or by zoom.

Publicity - Connie Landwehr

- No Report.

Scholarship - Clara Gong and Linda Falotico.

- Clara will meet with Connie about promoting the scholarships.
- The personal development award form is now in fillable format, on-line. It has its own tab on the website.

Website—Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez

- Connie asked that the Christmas party be listed as a member event and not open to the public. Rose Marie will list it as a member's holiday party.
- Jean is going to setup a meeting with Rose Marie to get something out to the vendors in January for the Unique Boutique to preempt them from booking other shows. The sign up and payment process for vendors will be streamlined on-line.
- Newsletters for the last few months can be updated on the website.

New Business/Old Business/Announcements

- Blue Star- Beth reported that discussions on the location of the memorial are continuing between iDot, Village of Arlington Heights and GCI.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm
Next Board Meeting January 13, 2025
Minutes submitted by Susan Striech

