

GardenGlories
District II President's' Reports
Fall/Winter 2024/2025 (Sept. - Jan.)

The Bolingbrook Garden Club has monthly meetings and programs on the second Thursday of each month from September through June. We are looking forward to September when our monthly meetings and programs start up again. We will continue to harvest produce from our plots in the Bolingbrook Community gardens. We are hoping the growing season extends well into the fall as we donate all of the fresh produce we grow to the West Suburban Community Pantry. Last year, our group of gardeners were able to harvest over 1600 lbs. of produce. They are hoping to meet that number or possibly surpass it. In October, we will be winterizing our perennials for next year's plant sale. One of our members allows us to do this in her vacant vegetable garden. The club is planning on taking part in the Village Halloween event and the Village Annual Winter Holiday Walk. Our club is starting a new project this year. We will be making and selling porch pots for Christmas. We started collecting items such as picks and pine cones to decorate the pots last year. We have been collecting pots that people have recycled and from members that have extras. We are hoping to get some greens donated. We are planning to donate all of the proceeds to the West Suburban Community Pantry. In December, we will be electing new officers and we will celebrate the season with our annual holiday party. For more information about our club, please visit our website at Bolingbrookgardenclub.org or at Facebook at facebook.com/bgc1993.

The Cress Creek Garden Club of Naperville, IL, will sponsor their major fundraiser "The Joy of Giving", on November 8, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM, at the Bolingbrook Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, IL.

This is the 49th annual Make It/ Bake It fundraiser that features a silent auction, raffles for gift baskets and wine, a craft boutique, homemade baked goods, a 50/50 cash prize and a delicious meal. The proceeds from the event will benefit scholarships and community organizations as well as ongoing club projects. Recently, CCGC awarded \$20,000 in scholarships and \$8000 to community organizations.

Ongoing projects include plantings at the DuPage Children's Museum, the PawPaw gardens at the Naperville Settlement, the Veteran's Memorial Park,

Trinity House (home for adult men with developmental disabilities), the Blue Star memorial at the VFW, Almost Home for Kids and St. Patrick's Residence and Rehabilitation.

For tickets and information about the event on November 8, please

visit www.cresscreekgardenclub.org. Tickets will go on sale September 1, 2024.

Crestview Garden Club of Elmhurst Please join us at one of our upcoming meetings: September. 10: Preparing Plants & Herbs to Come Indoors for the Winter, Horticulturist Marilyn Joyner; October 1: Winter Birds & How to Attract Them to Your Yard, Mike Warner and November. 5: Seed Starting, University of Illinois Extension. Meetings at 7 p.m., Community Bank of Elmhurst, 330 W. Butterfield/Spring Rd., Elmhurst. <https://www.crestviewgardenclub.com>

Darien Garden Club-for National Garden week club members delivered bouquets of flowers from their own gardens to nearby Senior homes, Libraries and other places. Our member field trips take

us to Lavendar farms, Argonne and other interesting places. Our monthly Horticultural Therapy is going strong at 3 local Senior Residences and our Sprouts Youth club's vegetable garden is looking good. We are very excited about a new Monarch Garden planted at St. John church. This garden has been designed by one of our own members, Chris Bosacki who attended a NAMI workshop and received NAMI and Rotary grant to build the garden. We have great speakers planned with a Members Show and Tell in August, September we will be talking Bulbs with a U of I Master Gardener. In October, join us for Wild Oaktober. This event will feature a naturalist from Benedictine University Nature Museum at Indian Prairie Public Library on October 20, 1:30-3:30. For more information, visit dariengardenclub.com and see linktr.ee/dariengardenclub for photos/videos on our social media and event site information.

The Elgin Garden Club had a busy and fun summer. As usual we had several Community projects. We did clean up and planting at the Elgin History Museum, Hawthorne Hill Nature Center, and planted the Highland Avenue Bridge planters. We also, for many years, continue to provide garden related programs with the Gail Borden Library that are free to the public. After our monthly meetings we enjoyed several interesting programs. We had a Lunch and Learn at a sustainable Gastropub & Brewery. They grow much of their own food to minimize their carbon footprint. We enjoyed a Plein Air Sip & Art event in the garden of one of our members. Learned about blending Herbs with hands on-activities by Marcy Lautenan Raleigh, an herb specialist. A couple of our own members gave a very interesting program about the Miyawaki method for cultivating fast-growing groves of native plants.

The Elmhurst Garden Club is in full action this summer with our Garden Walk and Faire on July 14. Many committees were formed to make this event a huge success. We are having a plant sale again since it was so successful in 2023. Last year we gave out over \$24,000 in scholarships and are hoping to exceed that amount this year. We currently have 123 members. Our Ray Graham committee has a big project going at the facility in Elmhurst. We have a fundraiser every August. We are expanding the patio so the clients have more access with their walkers and wheelchairs to enjoy picnics and parties. We are expanding our beautiful butterfly garden by restructuring it to add a rain forest garden. Several committees are coming together to help us plant and celebrate. It is going to be beautiful. Thank you to all our members that make this club run like a well-oiled machine. Lynn Dowiarz, President Elmhurst Garden Club 🌸

The Garden Club of Bensenville During the month of August our members will be volunteering in the beautification of the Blue/Gold Star Memorials.
August - Community volunteering (blue/gold star memorial beautification, help a fellow member who is under the weather)
September - Bulb bingo and committee planning
October - guest speaker tba
We also are looking into an outing, more on that later.

The Garden Club of Downers Grove meets on the third Monday of the month at 12:15 at the American Legion Post 80, 4000 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove. On 9/16, Glenn Grosch from the Chicago Botanic Garden will present "Flowering Scrubs, Selection and Care." The Club will have a field trip on 9/23 to the Urban Stream Research Center at the Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville. At the 10/21 general meeting, our program will be "Container Design 101: The Basics and Beyond" presented by Stephanie Dalton the owner/principal of Can't ContainHer specializing in landscape design as well as four season custom container garden design/installation. The Club's annual Luncheon and Boutique "A Festive Touch" will be on 11/25 at the Carlisle, 435 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard, IL. Mary Cantrell of Lake Zurich Florist will present "Holiday Home Floral Designs." In December, the Club will have a holiday luncheon at a local restaurant. For more information, visit our website and "like us" on Facebook.

<https://www.gardenclubofdownersgrove.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gardenclubdownersgrove/>

The Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest hosted its May luncheon at the Oak Park Country Club. This year, over 100 attendees enjoyed the 'Spring is in the Air' theme with a bounty of raffles, delicious food and the traditional hat parade. Guests delighted in seeing the many creative hats designed by members. An informative floral presentation was also included. At the 30th annual Garden Walk, over 900 visitors enjoyed a beautiful June day while touring eight unique and inspiring gardens throughout the villages of Oak Park and River Forest. This popular community event is sponsored by the Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest and Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory. Garden Club proceeds fund scholarships for seniors at Oak Park River Forest High school to help continue studies in several environmental and horticultural disciplines. The Holiday Boutique will feature a varied selection of holiday themed items, including wreaths, arrangements, special spices, ornaments and homemade goods. A special floral presentation is also part of the event that will take place December 11 at Cheney Mansion in Oak Park. For complete information on all the Club meetings and events please check the website www.gcopr.org

Geneva Garden Club kicks off the season with our traditional September welcome luncheon for members and guests. In October, our monthly luncheon/presentations begin with Pam Otto highlighting "Wildlife Along the Fox River." In November, Steve Matravers's class on Mulching 101. In December, Garrit Husar's Christmas presentation. Ending in January with Leslie Goddard's portrayal of Lady Bird Johnson. Our Kane County Jail Garden outreach summer program celebrates the harvest with a luncheon for inmate participants in early Fall. Community beautification projects are ongoing and plentiful. More details on Facebook and www.genevagardenclub.com

Hawthorn Garden Club of Glen Ellyn Woods meets on the first Thursday of the month at noon. In September, the members will take a tour of the New Scarce. In October we will learn about seed saving with Kathy Davidson. November will be a tour of the poinsettia greenhouse at Cantigny. December is our Christmas luncheon at Ki's.

Lindalee Stuckey

Grassroots Garden Group, now in our 10th year, continues our commitment to help make Westchester a more beautiful place to live. This year we have completed our 6th Annual Spring Plant Sale and 6th annual Westchester Garden Walk. Additionally, we work in concert with the village to make improvements to the highly visible town fountain and garden areas. A big part of our core mission is supporting the Westchester Food Pantry and, through our various activities, we've raised over \$32,000 for the pantry. This fall GGG will participate in a variety of workshops, markets, and educational programs as our members prepare for our next decade!

The Garden Study Club of Hinsdale will be back Monday, September 16, 2024, for a Fall Kickoff, which will focus on getting better acquainted with our newest members and the club's mission and operations. The October meeting, on Monday, October 21, will be an offsite luncheon and program by Nuovo Tea and Health featuring the health benefits of various types of natural and organic teas and herbs. The group meets again on Monday, November 4 at the Graue Mill House for a pizza luncheon and its annual construction of the 10-foot fresh evergreen wreath that will be displayed over the Graue Mill over the holidays. The club ends the year on December 9 with an offsite holiday gathering at a restaurant, where donations of money and mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and ear muffs will be collected for the Salvation Army. The Garden Study Club of Hinsdale meets monthly from September through June, generally on the third Monday, at the Oak Brook Library. For more information, please visit: GSCH.clubexpress.com.

La Grange Garden Club The club meets the first Monday of the month (2 in Sept. and no January meeting) at 12:15 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. In September members enjoy touring a member's garden after our meeting. In November Jack Shouba will describe the magnificent scenery and amazing birds and wild life in a presentation on the Enchanted Isles visit to the Galapagos. In December we'll celebrate with a holiday luncheon at Ruth Lake Country Club and enjoy a floral design demonstration. Members bring gifts for La Grange Rotary's Secret Santa program. www.Lagrangegardenclub.org

Jan McFarland
Co-President
(708) 359-2124

Lombard Garden Club meets at 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month at the Lombard Commons, St. Charles Road and Grace Street, unless otherwise noted. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

Future programs include:

Sept. 27, "Putting Your Garden to Bed", Bill Karges. Learn how to prepare your garden for winter so this year's problems won't be next year's. Members are welcome to bring in plant samples.

October 25, "Rain Gardens 101", Heather Prince. Heather will explain how to manage storm water on your property, turning "swampy" areas into lively garden features.

November 8, "The Curative Properties of Tea", Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh. Black tea versus herb teas, making your own teas, and medicinal properties will be discussed

December 13, "Christmas at the White House", Tamara Block. Learn about the twelve Christmas traditions at the White House.

For additional information about our club, please check out our Facebook page and our website, lombardgardenclub.org, or phone 630-620-8938

Naperville Garden Club is celebrating its 95th Anniversary this year. As part of our celebration, members who attended our May Luncheon received a purple and white umbrella with our logo. Members are encouraged to take a photograph with their umbrella this summer - wherever they go. We will use this opportunity to promote our club. We are gearing up for our 63rd Annual Cup of Cheer fundraiser, December 5 and 6, 2024. We feature four homes to tour which are decorated for the holidays. There is also a Holiday Market full of wonderful décor. Our Teas serves homemade cookies, tea and coffee. Each ticket holder also receives a cup and saucer to remind them of this special event. Tickets go on sale in mid-October. See our website (napervillegardenclub.org) for further information. We sold out last year, so plan early.

Pleasantdale Garden Club is located in Burr Ridge. We'll start the fall season with a tour of a local friend's Koi Pond. In October, we will get some cooking tips with member Maria Vacchiano giving us a cooking demonstration. Carol Cichorski visits us in November to tell us about Gardening Favorites of local pros and Celebs. In December, Peggy Garvin brings evergreens and fresh flowers for a member workshop for the holidays. Members will also bring Home-made cookies to donate to a local retirement home to brighten their holidays. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 AM at the Pleasantdale Park District in Burr Ridge. www.pleasantdalegardenclub.org
Jan McFarland, Publicity Chair (708) 359-2124

The Pottawatomie Garden Club has monthly meetings from March through October that include a program and business meeting. It has been a busy summer for the garden club, planting flowers in downtown St. Charles, maintaining natural areas by the Fox River, planting memorial trees in St. Charles for past members of the club and awarding two scholarships to district 303 students. At the September meeting, members will decorate pumpkins using leaves and flowers to make unique design." In October the garden club will meet for a fall luncheon where a Landscape Commendation Award will be presented to a local business. For information about the club go to pottagardenclub.org

Schaumburg Community Garden Club is celebrating our 35th year! We were very proud to receive the 2024 Volunteer Organization of the Year award from the Village of Schaumburg! We have been busy with our native plant sale, member's garden walk, field trips, and growing vegetables at Lord of Life Church for the community food pantry! We tend the peony garden at Schweiker House which is on the National Registry of historical places and the Heritage Garden at Schaumburg Township. We are looking forward to 10/6 for our annual pumpkin decorating event at Spring Valley's Autumn Fest. We supply 100's of decorations at no charge and help the children hot glue them on their pumpkins!

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7PM at Spring Valley Nature Center and we have great speakers! Master Gardener, Mark Lyons on 9/11 will tell us how to close our garden down for the year! Check us out on Facebook! We welcome guests and new members!

www.schaumburggardenclub.org

Tri-Village Garden Club Our club represents gardeners from Bartlett, Hanover Park and Streamwood. We meet from 6:30-8:30 on the third Wednesday of each month except June and July. Unless mentioned we meet at the Streamwood Fire Station #31, 1204 S. Park Ave., Streamwood, IL. Our club was very proud to receive an award from Hanover Township as a Service Club and Organization. One of the comments from the nomination committee was "The Tri-Village Garden Club has perfected this idea of group projects with a mutually beneficial outcome."

Our speakers for the Fall and Winter are: August 15 "Aunt V," Veronica Porter, from Ask Aunt V. Porter will demonstrate hands-on cooking techniques using organic vegetables. For this event, we will not meet at our regular location in Streamwood, instead we will be at Arts in Bartlett, 215 S. Main St., Bartlett. The event begins at 6:30 and is free and open to the public.

September 18 - Kim and Pete who are bee keepers.

October 16 - Mark Lyon will talk about preparing for next year's harvest.

November 20 - Cindy Crosby's program is for Buffalo Tails and Tall Tales.

December we will have our annual Member Appreciation and Holiday party.

For more information about Tri-Village Garden Club

visit trivillagegardenclub.org or facebook.com/TriVillageGardenClub.

The Violet Garden Club of Glen Ellyn is a small group. We have chosen to seek out free or low-cost local programs recently. The Glen Ellyn Park District and the Glen Ellyn Public Library had some programs in April and May that some of us attended.

The library had a program entitled Gardening at Home. We learned that there is a seed library where library patrons can get seeds to plant in their gardens.

Another program at the library had Amy Phillips from the Conservation Foundation speak. This was especially interesting, and it focused on native plants. We learned that the Conservation Foundation will come to your house for a "yard visit." The representative will assess your yard and consult you on what might work well.

The Wayne Countryside Garden Club began our 69th season with our annual Spring Luncheon featuring historian Leslie Goddard as Georgia O'Keefe. It was a wonderful celebration of the many ways we all find connection with nature and with one another. The club's most current civic works include, among others, two projects that focus on increasing native and pollinator-friendly plants- the renovation of the garden around the Memorial Rock in the Village's center and the editing and tending of the Butterfly Garden at Wayne Elementary School. This summer, we will meet to tour the Japanese Garden at the Fabyan Villa in Batavia on July 18th, followed by a tour August 15th tour of the Gardens at Ball. For more information about the club and upcoming events, find us on Facebook and at www.waynecountrysidegardenclub.org.

Western Springs Garden Club was active this summer with our traditional Village gardening endeavors. These include the creation of a unique design (re-conceived each year) for our Blue Star Memorial Garden. Members plant this design in annuals, and maintain the area. In addition, we have designed and maintained a perennial garden in local Spring Rock Park. This garden has both shade and sun constituents, and includes a bench. A memorial brick platform was recently added, containing the names of club members who have recently passed. We are also donating trees to the Park District for placement in Village parks. Kicking off our programs for 2024/2025 is our own Cindy Tyley, a certified landscape designer and owner of Carriage House Garden Design. She will be sharing information on creating continuous year-long color and interest in our gardens. In October, as we prepare to put our gardening tools away for the winter, Ken Benson will demonstrate how to sharpen a variety of tools, and provide useful tips. Members can bring loppers for sharpening. November will see Stephanie Dalton working with seasonal greens to prepare holiday arrangements, which will be raffled off. As always, December is a special program with a potluck brunch. It is followed by a workshop for making holiday gifts for residents in an area nursing home. All are welcome to join us for our casual, friendly gatherings. For more information, visit us at westernspringsgardenclub.org or on Facebook, or contact us at wspringsgardenclub@gmail.org.
