



THE GARDEN DIRT

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President's Message

Looking for adjectives for cold and chilly and cloudy weather! I hope I don't need those words for the next newsletter. We have had some nice days so far, so when it's to be nice, drop everything and get outside.

Similar to last spring, our perennials are doing what they do. I helped the horticulture group finish spring garden cleanup, and the gardens are thankful. I know I love getting my head brushed at the beauty shop; I imagine our gardens feel the same. Our phlox in the minipark are a foot tall already.

PLANT SALE! PLANT SALE! PLANT SALE!

Cindy C. distributed details at the general meeting. If by chance you missed the meeting, please contact Cindy for questions.

Our newsletter has gotten some great articles written. If you are interested in writing an article, please contact Jayna Legg to make sure content and length are available in that month's addition. We'd love to hear from you.

We got new "postcards" for publicity. Please take a few for your purse.

- President's Message, cont. p. 4

Birthdays

5/25—Dee Obrochta

6/22—Lori Linck

6/27—Karen Coulter

June is our Potluck. Remember, the plant sale May 20 serves as our May meeting. In June, we'll celebrate the end of another club year. Bring a dish to share. We'll review our accomplishments and discuss new business for the summer. Scholarship winner and awards will be presented. The Hospitality team (**Lana Svitak**, Betty Collins & Nancy Zitkus) will bring desserts.

Garden Week is June 4-10. The club will have a meet-and-greet in the Mini Park. It's a time for members to get to know each other and promote the club to the village. Details are TBA.

2nd Art in Bloom is in May at the Antioch Art Center. Our club is invited to submit live plant exhibits—planters, blooming house plants, flower arrangements, etc. Contact Carol Fink Sacks-chewsky, 847-858-2256, or email

CALENDAR

May 6—Spring Planting, 9 a.m., Meet at Mini-Park next to Vintage Mercantile downtown

May 20—Annual Plant Sale, all members, 10 a.m., Williams Park Pavilion, Antioch

May 24—Board Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Antioch Village Center

June 10 — General Mtg., 1 p.m., Village Center

Antioch Garden Club is a member of Garden Club of Illinois, Inc.; Central Region Garden Club, District IX and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Officers: President-Holly Markwart Swehla, Vice President-Marianne Peters, Secretary-Nancy Zitkus, Treasurer-Lana Svitak

The Garden Dirt is published electronically nine times a year.

The Garden Dirt is emailed to members and posted online at: antiochgardenclub.org.

Plant Sale Countdown

Yikes, our Plant Sale on Sat, May 20th is right around the corner! Bring your potted houseplants, herbs, veggies and perennials in containers wiped-clean. ID craftstix, labeled with ultra-fine markers, should include:

- Name of plant, common and/or horticulture
- Sun requirements (full sun, part shade, shade)
- Color and height of plant
- Please write on only one side of the craftstix. Price goes on the opposite side.

IMPORTANT: If you suspect/know that your soil has jumping worms, PLEASE **do not** bring them! AGC cannot spread this invasive pest to buyers.

Baked goods can be packaged in smaller lots, possibly in plastic deli boxes. Donate clean, gently-used garden-related books, planters, and garden décor. No plastic pots, please.

Deliver your plants/items 8-9:30 a.m. (no later) to the north side of the Williams Park pavilion, where we'll park our cars. The south entrance will be for the public to line up. Much work needs to be done before the 10 a.m. stampede. We'll need "all hands on deck!"

You can select plants for yourselves, store them in your vehicles, and be trusted to pay the cashier once the big rush subsides. (Full price if taken before noon, when ½ price takes effect.) Please don't walk past the public with purchases as they wait in line till we open.

- We'll cover the picnic tables with tablecloths first
- ID signs will be attached to the tables (sun, hostas, etc.)
- Plants will be priced and delivered to the proper tables
- Plant ID descriptions will be placed into pots
- A brief meeting/group photo takes place at 9:50 a.m.

I'll have green aprons available to wear. PLEASE bring your red wagons/carts to assist buyers with multi-pot purchases. Wagon/carts are needed to transport plants from arrival to the proper tables and to buyers' cars. Our plants come from local soil and growing conditions, so they will more easily adjust and flourish in their new homes. Save some of YOUR plant dollars for our sale. A **local beekeeper** will be there to give 10% of his profits to our club, so please stock up on honey, lotions, and scented waxes. These make great gifts. A garden/household **tool sharpener** will be able to get your items re-edged and also share his profits with the club. Tell your friends and neighbors. Come and enjoy the camaraderie, knowledge, and enthusiasm of your fellow gardeners. See you there!

-Cindy Cartner sedan1@msn.com, 847.395.8902.

"A Garden Is A Grand Teacher" Gertrude Jekyll



Antioch Garden Club, General Meeting, April 8, 2023

WELCOME: Holly Swehla, President

CALL TO ORDER: 1:05 p.m.



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND GARDEN CLUB PLEDGE

Program: Meeting was started with program: Beekeeping by Frank Moriarty. Refreshments were served. Then Holly resumed the business meeting.

Secretary's Report: No changes; Filed.

Treasurer's Report: No changes; Filed for audit.
Dues are due April 21.

Correspondence: No correspondence

Committee Reports

Audit: No report

Bylaws: No report

Historian: No report

Horticulture:

Co-chairs are **Collette, Jennifer and Laura**. Spring cleanup was cancelled. It will be this Friday, the 14th, at 10 a.m., usually this is a Hort. Committee work session. Meet at the mini-park. Planting day is May 6, 9 a.m. Laura contacted village about mulch. No answer yet. Hoping for the first weekend in May. We have open slots for maintenance. The committee meets every two weeks to work on gardens. We also have an all-club responsibility to sign up for one week. Every member is supposed to sign up. Laura will talk with each person during their week to see what needs to be done. For example, some things still need watered even though we have a watering system.

Hospitality: Betty

Signup sheet for hospitality is going around (new one; last one was lost). Hostesses today – Betty, Jayna, Jennifer. Next month – No meeting, so no hostesses.

Membership:

We have 40 members; 21 were present for the meeting. Elizabeth V. was inducted. Member noticed that a new phone tree needs to be created with new members added. Elizabeth volunteered to update the yearbook with a separate sheet, and it can be electronic. Dues is due!

Nominating: We are looking for a Publicity Chair.

Philanthropy: No report.

Programs: Everyone enjoyed the program today.

Publicity: New member Nancy is willing to be Publicity Chair. Barbara will mentor her.



Beekeeper Frank Moriarty gave the presentation.

—March Minutes, continued on p. 6

March 2023 AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer

Beginning Bank Balance					\$ 11,489.54
Disbursements Cleared					
	Check #	Paid to	Committee		
2/27/2023	1158	GCI Dist IX	State/Dist meetings	294.00	
3/6/2023	1159	Cindy Cartner	Horticulture \$180.99	297.99	Ways and means \$117.00
3/11/2023	1160	Betty Sprovieri	Hospitality	8.15	
3/11/2023	1161	Jackie Hornek	Membership	49.39	
3/11/2023	1162	Marianne Peters	Yearbooks	106.54	
3/11/2023	1163	Marcy Laubamen-Kale	March Programs	175.00	
3/11/2023	1164	Dee Obrochta	Membership	39.69	
3/22/2023	1166	Marianne Peters	Yearbooks	141.44	
				Total	\$ 1,112.20
Deposits					
		From			
3/18/2023		Deposit	Membership Dues	510.00	
3/18/2023		Deposit	March Raffles	45.00	
				Total	\$ 555.00
Ending Bank Balance 3/31/23					\$ 10,932.34
Disbursements Outstanding					
1/21/2023	1156	Lake County Extension	Seed Expo, 2 tables	50.00	
3/11/2023	1165	Annette Lubkeman	March hospitality	16.49	
				Total	\$ 66.49
Ending Book Balance 3/31/23					\$ 10,865.85

—President's Message, continued from p. 1

Remember Spring Planting in town is Saturday, May 6

Then you'll have some to hand out when you get inquiries about our club. We got 200 to start.

Nancy Colby has agreed to be the chairperson for publicity. If you hear of events we may like to attend, please let Nancy know. Thanks Nancy!

REMINDER from the Horticulture Committee about Spring Planting May 6: Meet at the Mini Park garden in town, at **9 a.m.** Bring your gardening tools, a smile and your enthusiasm!

That's enough of me for this month. Here is to dirty fingers !



- Holly Markwart Swehla

Hort Committee Report by Nancy Colby



As a new member of the Antioch Garden Club, I was honored to be asked to write an article for the Horticultural Committee. My lifelong passion is cats, particularly special needs cats. My growing passion is gardening, and I've found a group of incredibly wise ladies here in the AGC. Using my knowledge of cats, it was natural for me to talk about the relationship between cats and plants.

The most well-known cat-loving plant is catnip (genus *Nepeta* in the family Lamiaceae). When cats are exposed to catnip, they rub on the plant, paw it, lick, and chew it. Some eat it while others just roll happily. Responses vary but often include drooling, leaping and loud purring. Occasionally a cat will become anxious or even a bit over stimulated but it only lasts momentarily. Catnip can be offered to a cat as fresh leaves. Crush them a bit between your fingers to release the aroma. It can also be offered dried, inside toys, or sewn into catnip pillows. Catnip can be consumed by humans as an herbal tea – but why? Let the cats have their day! Grow catnip in full sunlight. It is a drought-tolerant, deer-resistant, low-growing perennial with loose branches and brown-green leaves. The stems are square, consistent as a member of the mint family, and it smells like mint. It is the nepetalactone oil in the leaves cats love.

Talking about the “happy plant” for cats naturally opens the opportunity talk about plants that are toxic to cats. The list is long. If you have a cat, it's a good idea to do some research, so you know your home is safe. One of the most common and most toxic plants to cats is the lily. Many bring lilies home for Easter and Spring. These plants can cause acute kidney injury to your cat, and in some cases, lead to death. Other ordinary household plants can hurt our pets, too: Baby's Breath, Tulips, English Ivy, Aloe Vera, Asparagus Fern, Dieffenbachia and more. Not all cats are adventurous enough to dig in or eat a plant but if you have one that is, please protect them. Place the plant somewhere the cat can't reach or simply choose a safer plant for your home. Because it is spring, and plants are starting to resurface after the winter here is the ASPCA Poison Control number 888-426-4435. Here's hoping you'll never have to call the number!

GCI Annual Convention by Vice President Marianne Peters

April 16-17, the Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. held it's annual convention at the Marriott Hotel in Naperville. Approximately 157 members from garden clubs all over the state attended. The first day, you had a choice of a guided bird walk tour or a garden water feature make-and-take workshop. District directors held their meeting before there was a reception and dinner to honor a variety of members. Those recognized were GCI and NGC Life Members, Central Regional Director Carol Yee, and those GCI members who passed in the last year. After dinner, delightful entertainment was provided by singer Petra va Nuis and pianist Chris White, who sang floral-themed songs from the American Songbook. The second day, educational exhibits, a shopping boutique, and a raffle of a variety of baskets and gift certificates were available to enjoy. Main speaker, Pam Karlson, presented "Birds in the Garden: Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis." We all enjoyed hearing about her creating an oasis for birds in her Chicago backyard. The annual business meeting was held, and our leaders the new officers were installed; lunch, and a floral design presentation followed. Flower displays were everywhere and all were able to go home with members. All in all, the positive atmosphere was inspiring. So many clubs, whether tiny in size or as big as 200+ members, are doing great things for our state via community education, garden maintenance, the creation of natural habitats, and the promotion of conservation. It was great to hear how other clubs function; but even greater to share stories with other gardeners and feel the fellowship of the garden club community.

—March Minutes, continued from p. 3

Newsletter: Deadline April 28

Website: No report.

Yearbook: Marianne needs headshots of new members for the next yearbook. She also needs corrections. Email her. She needs it by June. It is printed in August.

Facebook: Plant sale will be posted.

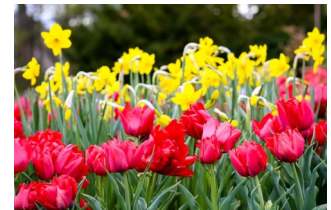
Scholarship: There are two confirmed applicants. The decision will be made this week.

Special Projects:

Monarch Butterfly: Nothing to report.

Wreath Decoration: No report. Mary Y. is the new chair.

Sock drive will go on all year.



Ways & Means:

Plant sale – May 20. Someone is needed to bring coffee – Karen C. volunteered. Cindy showed the flyer and passed some out. She passed out an information sheet, with a map of the pavilion. We always need wagons. Gently used garden items are welcome, but not magazines. Books OK. Cindy is giving out pots and Craft Stix.

Beekeeper will be there selling honey products. He’s been joining our sale for years. He gives us 10 percent of proceeds – Peter P. It’s a nice addition. Heartland Bank will be there with a popcorn machine. They help sponsor the sale.

Don’t bring plants if there’s any chance you have jumping worms in your yard. Your dirt looks like coffee grounds if you have them. Don’t bring invasive plants either.

On the Craft Stix – label light needs, does it flower, add color, time of year it blooms.

As for your own purchases, it’s OK to put things aside. However, pay full price unless you wait until after noon. Don’t take plants by people standing in line. Don’t put your plants behind the bake sale. Bake Sale questions go to Betty. Make sure to label what it is. Bake your hearts out! The bake sale does well. Use little plates, three or four cookies, wrapped in Saran Wrap. Big cookies should be in sandwich bags and sealed. Barb brought mugs with mug cake mix for people to take with them and make for the bake sale.

Old Business: None

New Business: Carol S. dropped off flyers for the Art Foundation’s Art in Bloom in May. Garden club members are invited to participate and make flower arrangements. Jackie has a letter from Chong if anyone is interested.

Announcements:

Judy – Antioch improvement committee news - Lot next to church is cleared. That’s where the farmers’ market will be. Judy is pushing a “native” agenda for the village, e.g. oak tree.

April 22, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., there will be a community cleanup in Antioch for Earth Day. With a complimentary lunch.

Barb: Village parks and rec starting a study about programs and what’s offered to residents. They will work on a strategic plan. Barb will keep the club updated. Email her your input.

Norma brought up importance of use of a fraud-proof pen (gel pen). She cited an article about a 91-year-old man scammed out of a lot of money, via check-washing.

Raffle was conducted. Meeting adjourned 3:26 p.m.

–Submitted by April Acting Secretary Jayna Legg

THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

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May