



THE GARDEN DIRT

Find out how to join and see more stories, photos & more: www.https://antiochgardenclub.org/

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092185695347>



President's Message

Late summer greetings! OK, OK early fall! Gardening is winding down for the season. Always a sad time for me but we must stay positive. This season really flew by for me. The sun is sure going down faster and faster. Jammy time is earlier and earlier. It's already time to think about garden dreams for next year.

I have become hooked on Winter sowing. I hope to give a program on it. It is a wonderful way to continue gardening, just in case we don't have enough months in the year to do so. Remember to save your seeds.

I recently had the opportunity to attend a District IV fall bonus event in Northbrook. I couldn't help but compare our club to other clubs. I will say we have a wonderful club of our very own. Laura Vertz provided clubs with resource information, which was well attended. Susan Suraci was there. We broke into groups and discussed a few interesting items. Topics included membership, fundraising, personnel, technology and programs. Each was supposed to be 30 minutes and we ran out of time.

- President's Message, cont. p. 4

Birthdays

10/1—Cheryl Hoke

10/9—Nancy Colby

10/13—Betty Sprovieri

10/25—Caitlin Prewitt

10/25—Lesia Semitka

Oct. Program: "Flowering Shrubs, Selection and Care," by Glenn Grosch. Glen will present the basics of successfully growing deciduous shrubs, including plant selection, planting, watering, fertilizing and pruning. He'll cover Midwest shrubs by season—dormancy, full flower, summer foliage, and fall color. Glenn is on the Chicago Botanic Garden teaching staff and is a certified arborist.

Hospitality: Hostess Mary Yott, with Lesia Semitka, Susan Serowicki, Carol Zwiazek

Reminder: Nov. 4 is the Fall Clean-up! Meet at the Mini Park, with your tools and gloves!

CALENDAR

Oct. 14 — General Mtg., 1 p.m., Antioch Village Center, doors open 12:30 p.m.

Oct. 25 — Board Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Antioch Village Center

Nov. 4—Fall Cleanup, 9 a.m., Mini-Park

Nov. 11 — General Mtg., 1 p.m., Antioch Village Center doors open 12:30 p.m.

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

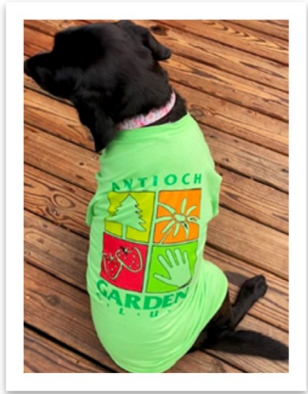
Officers: President-Holly Markwart Swehla, Interim Vice President-Judy Caldwell, Secretary-Nancy Zitkus, Treasurer-Lana Svitak

The Garden Dirt is published electronically nine times a year.

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

Social & Community Happenings

Well, the shirts were a success! Everyone who got one says they are very happy with theirs. Whew! We still have a few available if you didn't order one and now want one. Just let me know what size you need. We also have the ability to place additional orders as time goes on if needed (and I hope that happens). Thanks to everyone who got one and for everyone who shared happy comments and good reviews.



Betty Sue gives the new shirt her two-paws-up sign of approval!

- ◇ Our current Facebook page is transitioning to a new and improved page in October. That means the old one (**Antioch Garden Club**) will be dormant, and the new one will be the “good” one. The new Facebook page for the garden club is **Antioch Garden Club – Antioch, IL**. It is important that you include Antioch, IL when you search. Make sure you “like” the new page. Once you do that, you’re all set.
- ◇ Christmas is now one month closer than it was last month! Remember we are signed up to decorate trees both at the Festival of Trees at Hiram Buttrick Sawmill and at Kringle’s Christmas Village in the Piggly Wiggly shopping center. We need volunteers to help decorate both of these trees!
- ◇ The Festival of Trees at Hiram Buttrick Mill is an outside tree, so we need hardy bodies to help decorate in the beautiful winter weather. The tree at Kringle’s Christmas Village is indoors so it will be easy for everyone to share in that decorating. The decorating date for the indoor tree at Kringle’s Christmas Village is Saturday, November 11. The date for the outdoor tree is Saturday, December 2 from 2-4 p.m. Details will be shared as we get closer to the event. Please let me know if you will help so a volunteer list can be accumulated. It’s never too early to say “yes”! And it’s never too early to say “thanks” to everyone who does!

-Nancy Colby, Publicity

Antioch Garden Club, General Meeting, Sept. 9, 2023

WELCOME: Holly Swehla, President

CALL TO ORDER: 1 p.m.



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND GARDEN CLUB PLEDGE

PROGRAM: The meeting was paused for our program on mushrooms given by Lindsay Schwartz. She went from a Master's in Applied Nutrition to operating her own gourmet mushroom business. She spoke on the types of mushrooms, growing them, and even offering DIY grow kits in several sizes. We then enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch, and meeting was brought back to order.

Secretary's Report: Nancy Zitkus. The minutes were published in our Newsletter, *Garden Dirt*. There were no corrections so they will be filed. There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Lana Svitak. The reports were published in our Newsletter, *Garden Dirt*. There being no corrections, the report will be filed for Audit. The 2023-2024 Antioch Garden Club Budget was presented. Hearing no corrections a motion was moved by Betty Sprovieri and seconded by Jennifer Wittenberg, no discussion, motion was carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit: Norma Lucansky. Norma's committee, Holly Swehla, Lana Svitak and Marianne Peters, met and audited the Treasurer's Books of the Antioch Garden Club for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. They reconciled the statements with the checkbook and found that the books are correct. Her full report is attached to the minutes. A motion made by Elizabeth Vogt and seconded by Joyce Kufalk to accept the Audit report. There was no discussion, the motion passed.

By Laws: Nancy Zitkus. No Report.

Historian: Joyce Kufalk. She bought some binders for our articles.

Conservation/Horticulture: Fall Cleanup will be on Nov. 4, 2023; meet at the Mini Park at 9 a.m.

Hospitality: Betty Sprovieri. Betty read the Hostess committee for today.

Membership: Jackie Horneck. Jackie announced that 24 members were present with three guests. Chris Priller and Susan Ullrich have joined the club. Welcome. Carol Zwiazek will be helping Jackie. We now have 38 members.

Nominating Committee: Betty Sprovieri. Betty announced that Judy Caldwell, a past president of the club, has agreed to step into the Vice President position to fill out the term of Marianne Peters. Thank you so much, Judy.

Philanthropy: Jane Buck. No Report.

Publicity: Nancy Colby. Nancy has the Antioch Garden Club shirts that were ordered. Please pick them up. She also has some extra shirts if a member would like one.

Newsletter: Jayna Legg. Our Newsletter deadline for articles is Sept. 27, 2023.

Website: Lana Svitak. She will be updating our activities today on the website.

Yearbook. President Holly has the new pages for our yearbook. Please check your data and let her know of any corrections. Biller Press did the yearbook and collated the pages for us. Elizabeth Vogt has graciously accepted the job for the next yearbook, 2024-2025. Thank you, Elizabeth.

Facebook: Lori Linck. She has set up a new Facebook page. Please check it out.

August 2023 AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer

Beginning Bank Balance				\$ 12,430.50
Disbursements Cleared				
	Check #	Paid to	Committee	
6/26/2023	1184	Colette Monahan	Horticulture	64.17
8/5/2023	1188	Laura Vertz	Flower show (glass vases)	35.00
8/8/2023	1189	Dist IX, GCI	State/District Dues	10.00
8/17/2023	1190	US Postal Service	Operations - PO Box renewal	176.00
				Total
				\$ 285.17
Deposits				
	From			
8/7/2023	Deposit	Dennis Downes donation for Scholarship		250.00
				Total
				\$ 250.00
Ending Bank Balance 8/31/23				\$ 12,395.33
Disbursements Outstanding				
8/23/2023	1191	Antioch Public Library	Arbor Day Serviceberry planted at library	500.00
				Total
				\$ 500.00
Ending Book Balance 8/31/23				\$ 11,895.33

—President's Message, continued from p. 1

Exciting year ahead of us, so buckle up!

Put a bunch of gardeners together and that's what you get. More on that subject in the future!

THANK you to Carol Zwiazek, who is joining Jackie Horneck on the Membership Committee. And thank you to Elizabeth Vogt, who volunteered to be Yearbook Chair. Please check your personal info and get updates to her.

Please consider joining the inner workings of our club. We need a new Horticulture Chair (now) and treasurer, vice president, president, secretary and Hospitality Chair (by June).

We continue to grow, which is very exciting for me because I know there are many more gardeners in the Antioch area who we need to reach out to and invite to join.

We have an exciting year ahead of us, so buckle up, and enjoy the club!

Remember to bring your yearbook with you to meetings, as we will always be updating it. The October meeting will be the last meeting we will distribute the new inserts. If you haven't been able to get yours, and can't come to the meeting, we plan to mail them out. But if you pick it up at the meeting, you will save the club postage.

- Holly Markwart Swehla



Hort. Committee Report submitted by Laura Skender

Greenhouse Gardening for Beginners in Zone 5b: A Comprehensive Guide*

Greenhouse gardening in Zone 5b can be a rewarding and enjoyable hobby, even for beginners. This climate zone, which experiences cold winters and relatively short growing seasons, presents unique challenges for gardeners. However, with the right knowledge and preparation, you can extend your growing season, protect your plants from harsh weather, and cultivate a wide variety of crops.



Selecting the right greenhouse is a crucial first step. In Zone 5b, where temperatures can drop significantly in winter, it's essential to choose a greenhouse that offers proper insulation and temperature control. Consider the following factors:

1. **Size:** Determine how much space you have and what you want to grow.
2. **Material:** Common greenhouse materials include glass, polycarbonate panels, and polyethylene film. Polycarbonate panels retain heat effectively and often are the best choice for insulation in cold climate.
3. **Ventilation:** Proper ventilation is vital for regulating temperature and humidity. Look for a greenhouse with roof vents and side vents that can be opened and closed as needed.
4. **Heating:** In Zone 5b, a heating system may be necessary during the winter months. Consider options like propane or electric heaters to maintain a consistent temperature.
5. **Foundation:** Ensure your greenhouse has a sturdy foundation to withstand heavy snow loads and strong winds common in this climate zone.

Once you've chosen your greenhouse, it's time to prepare it for planting:

1. **Location:** Place your greenhouse in a spot that receives maximum sunlight, preferably facing south. Ensure it's sheltered from strong winds, as these can damage the structure.
2. **Foundation:** Properly level and anchor your greenhouse to prevent shifting during winter storms.
3. **Insulation:** Apply additional insulation to the walls and floor if necessary. Bubble wrap or thermal curtains can help retain heat.
4. **Heating System:** Install a heating system if required. Make sure it's safe and follows local building codes.

Continued next month: Selecting crops for your Zone 5b greenhouse and greenhouse maintenance.

*Generated by ChatGPT

Special Projects:

Wreaths: Mary Yott. Mary has contacted Breezy Hill, S&S, Floral Acres and Horvats for quotes. S&S doesn't do Christmas anymore, Randy from Floral Acres has no prices from his supplier yet and she hasn't heard from Horvat's or Breezy Hill. She has checked the inventory for what we will need for decorating. President Holly is checking to see if we will be giving the Antioch Art Center a wreath this year. A decision was made to no longer put up a wreath at the train station as those doors are mostly shut to go inside.



Monarch Initiative: Barb Gollwitzer. Barb is still working with the Village. We plan on purchasing the bench for Williams Park and do some planting within the community. Plantings will be done at Osmond Park also, depending on the weather.

Ways and Means: Barb Gollwitzer and Cindy Cartner. Cindy reminded us of the date of the Plant Sale next year – May 18, 2024. Think about which plants to split and bring to the sale. Barb asked members to come up with some ideas for some money-making events. A few different ideas were brought forth. **Socks for the Soul will still be collected each meeting for Open Arms Mission.**

Announcements: Our next Board Meeting will be Sept. 27, 2023, and our next Regular Meeting will be Oct. 14, 2023 at the Antioch Village Center. District IX will be having a meeting on September 20. The program will be “Best Practices on Garden Club Management.” President Holly plans on attending. Round Lake Garden Club will be having a program on bulbs. No further business the raffle was conducted. President Holly adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Zitkus, Secretary

“Mrs. Mushroom,” AKA Lindsay Schwartz, gave an excellent program at the September meeting all about mushrooms.

She went from a Master's Degree in Applied Nutrition to operating her own gourmet mushroom business.

Mrs. Mushroom answered many questions from the audience as she spoke on the types of mushrooms, how to grow them, and even offered DIY grow kits in several sizes.



THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, Il 60002

