



THE GARDEN DIRT

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<https://antiochgardenclub.org/>

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



President's Message

Happy Spring! Haha says Mother Nature! Not so fast ... this is just a reminder as to who is really in charge. Seven inches of snow reported in Lake Villa, so I'm going with that amount. Our poor daffodils. I'm sure it's not their first rodeo, and they will snap back. We need the moisture, and I, for one, prefer to get the snow in March rather than May, but who knows what is in store for us.

If you all recall, a while back I sent out the application to submit for the District IX All Star Award for you to review and say what things you did. At the 45th Annual Meeting of District IX, Garden Clubs of Illinois, Central Region, National Garden Clubs luncheon, held on March 12, I was honored to accept the 2023 All Star Award 2nd place, medium size club, with a \$30 check. This is us! Thanks to all of you!

Another award is the 2023 Ongoing Civic Project, and we brought home the **FIRST PLACE** award for a medium club of \$50.00 prize! We did submit the award application for the yearbook, but alas, we did not win that one.

- President's Message, cont. p. 6

Birthdays

4/20—Joyce Kufalk

April Program

Bald Eagles and Ospreys of Lake County. We will welcome guest speaker Holly Garvey. Did you know that Ill. has the highest wintering population of bald eagles in the lower 48? Or that we have at least 15 active osprey nests in Lake County? Join us to learn about the return of ospreys and bald eagles to Lake County and the Chain O' Lakes area. Despite increasing numbers, the birds are still at risk. Learn how to view and identify the birds, and what you can do locally to contribute to their conservation.

May meeting added: We are now having a May meeting, at 1 p.m., May 11, at the Methodist Church. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Welcome: We welcome Jill Montre, who will join other new members to be inducted at the April meeting.

Hospitality & Raffle Hostess Lana Svitak: Caitlin Prewitt, Holly Markwart-Swehla, Sharon Pendergast

CALENDAR

April 13—General Mtg., 1 p.m., Antioch United Methodist Church; doors open 12:30 p.m.

April 24—Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Antioch Village Center

April 27—Spring Cleanup, 9 a.m., Meet at the Mini-Park downtown

May 4—Spring Planting, 9 a.m., Meet at the Mini-Park downtown

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.

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Plant Sale

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Plant Sale is Primary Fundraiser

The club's Plant/Perennial/Bake Sale is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 18, at the Williams Park pavilion, 741 Main Street in Antioch (behind the library). We'll need donations from all club members in the form of annuals, perennials, herbs, indoor houseplants, baked goods, preserves, books, garden-related items, and volunteer time.

I'd like to know what you'll be bringing so that I can make-up colorful plant ID's. At the April meeting, I'll have pots, trays and craftstix for you to label your plants. If someone you know has plants to divide, give them pots and arrange for them to bring to bring the potted plants to our sale.

Think about dividing and propagating houseplants, starting seedlings and decide if those perennial beds of yours need any thinning. Try to get your plants into pots by around April 18, so they can be established and fill out their containers. Pack and label baked goods in smaller servings. (Clear deli boxes work well.) Pies and 1/2 cakes sell fast! Pricing will be done on the sale morning. Contact Nancy Zitkus or Betty Collins for your Bake Sale questions.



On Saturday, help is needed for set-up, starting at 8 a.m. You'll deliver the plants at the North side of the pavilion, where you'll park your vehicle. The plants get priced before being sent to the appropriate tables. When the sale begins at 10 a.m., it's a madhouse for an hour, with buyers asking about our plants and seeking advice. We'll tidy and condense tables as the plants disappear. Nancy Colby has arranged a lunch to be delivered during the lull before we wrap it up around 1p.m. and tidy the pavilion. And then we call it a day!

Local Beekeeper Peter Poli will have a display of his organic honey, soaps, and scented wax products. We receive 10 percent of his profits that day. Please support him, by buying local, and getting the advantage of the kickback to our club. I've asked a local knife/tool sharpener to attend this year again, too.

When you help, you're bound to pick-up new horticulture info and have fun at the same time! Mark your calendars, and tell your friends about our sale. There's loads of competition in May for plant sale buying. We know that locally-nurtured plants will survive and thrive in our "challenging" soil and climate. Save some of your planting dollars for the sale and for the club's financial health.

Questions? Contact Chair Cindy Cartner, 847-395-8902, sedan1@msn.com

Antioch Garden Club, General Meeting, March 9, 2024



WELCOME: Holly Swehla, President **CALL TO ORDER:** 1:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND GARDEN CLUB PLEDGE

President, Holly Swehla, asked for a moment of prayer for the passing of our garden club friend, Dennis Downs. He donated the Trail Marker and has supported our club monetarily.

Secretary's Report: Nancy Zitkus. The minutes were published in the *Garden Dirt*; there being no corrections, the report will be filed.

Treasurer's Report: Lana Svitak. The report was published in the *Garden Dirt*; there being no corrections, the report will be filed for audit. Balance on Hand as of Jan. 31, 2024 - \$7,484.96.

Correspondence: Nancy read a Thank You from a resident of Millview Manor, one of the many places we donate a Christmas Wreath to.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bylaws: Nancy Zitkus. Nancy reported the committee will be meeting and will go through the bylaws.

Historian: Joyce Kufalk. Joyce would like any pictures or articles of the activities of our club for the archives.

Conservation/Horticulture. President, Holly, reported the committee needs a chairman.

Hospitality: Betty Sprovieri. President, Holly, read the Hostess Committee for the day.

Membership: Carol Zwiazek. Carol will be taking over for Jackie Horneck. There were 20 members present, five guests and one has joined. Jill Monfre is the new member.

Nominating Committee: Betty Sprovieri. No report at this time. A list of Hostess committees will be sent around for the 2024-2025 club year.

Philanthropy/Arbor Day: Jane Buck, Joanne Dugenske. No Report.

Programs: Judy Caldwell. Judy is working on programs for the next club year. This meeting we have one of our own, Nancy Colby, showing us how to paint on rocks. Upcoming program will be presented by Holly Garvey on the topic of Eagles and Ospreys in Lake County, Ill.

Publicity: Nancy Colby. The Spring Cleanup Day will be Saturday, April 6. Meet at the Mini Park, 9 a.m. Nancy will be walking around the various gardens wearing the Garden Club shirt.

Newsletter: Jayna Legg. The *Garden Dirt* has been published. Please take time to read all the important information. Jayna does such a wonderful job; makes our Garden Club proud.

Website: Lana Svitak. Lana has updated the site. She will also take pictures of today's program and put them on the website. Please send her pictures of your gardens as they wake up this Spring.



Member Nancy Colby instructs members how to paint rocks.

—March Minutes, continued on p. 6

AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer



Feb. 2024

Beginning Bank Balance				\$ 7,509.96	
Disbursements Cleared					
	Check #	Paid to	Committee		
				Total	\$ -
Deposits					
		From		Total	\$ -
Ending Bank Balance 2/28/24				\$ 7,509.96	
Disbursements Outstanding					
		University of Illinois			
1/21/2024	1210	Extension Office	Publicity, Seed Expo, 1 table		25.00
2/24/2023	1211	GCI Dist IX	Annual Luncheon		385.00
				Total	\$ 410.00
Ending Book Balance 2/28/24				Total	\$ 7,099.96

Horticulture Committee Report

Quite hard to think about buying, planting and tending to plants when it's still below freezing at night and snows somewhat frequently. But, we need to. We are seeking members to raise their hand to be the clubs' decider of just what plants to buy this spring for our gardens. Or, in other words, we need a Horticulture Chair.



The most fun part is, of course, buying the plants. You get to ask for the money to purchase the plants. It's usually annual bedding plants with the occasional perennial purchase. There has been some talk of converting our gardens to a lot more natives. If you find you have knowledge of this, or have a burning desire to organize the committee, please step forward and let your talents shine. We would be very grateful to you. We may even purchase a crown for you.

REMINDER: Spring Cleanup of our village gardens has been rescheduled for 9 a.m., Saturday, April 27. Meet at the Mini-Park. Bring the usual— gloves, gardening tools and your enthusiasm!

Arbor Day by Jane Buck



The Antioch Garden Club donates a yearly monetary gift to plant a tree in Antioch. This year, we are planning to donate a tree to be planted in the Antioch Township Vern Thelen Park project. Currently, we are discussing options for the tree planting. Did you know there are a lot of myths and misconceptions about trees and tree care? You may have heard from a friend or neighbor a myth that has been passed down through the years.

However, scientific research on trees continues to improve our understanding of how trees function and how to keep trees healthy and safe. Here are several myths you might have heard:

Myth 1-Planting a tree deep will keep the roots growing deep.

If a tree is planted deep in soil or mulch, its roots will become starved for oxygen and may not survive. To explore more on this, read <https://extension.psu.edu/are-my-trees-buried-too-deep>

Myth 2-At planting, prune off branches to balance the tree's crown with the roots.

Removing live branches and buds during transplanting robs the tree of food production (photosynthates) in the leaves needed to grow new roots. Also, removing buds on branches reduces the production of auxin, a growth hormone produced in those buds, which then moves to the root system to initiate root growth. View <https://extension.psu.edu/planting-landscape-trees> for more.

Myth 3-Tree topping doesn't hurt the tree because it produces lots of leaves.

Tree topping is actually one of the worst things you can do to your tree. It can remove as much as 100% of the tree's food-making foliage (removing buds when not in leaf has the same impact). Tree topping not only starves the tree and its root system, but it also opens the tree up to major decay and rot, caused by improperly healing cuts that cannot close (trees don't heal, wounds close). Learn how to properly prune by reading <https://extension.psu.edu/pruning-landscape-trees>.

Myth 4-Painting Wounds Stops Rot.

When a living tree is wounded, it leaves the tree exposed to decay-causing fungi to enter. Paint (or other substances) doesn't effectively seal out decay fungi. Rather, it can hold moisture in, creating an ideal environment for fungus to take hold. Painting wounds does not help the tree and some oil-based paints or tar will inhibit and slow down wound closure.

You can find more information on tree myths at these sites:

<https://www.ecomatcher.com/tree-and-tree-planting-busting-myths>

<https://extension.psu.edu/tree-myths-and-misconceptions>

<https://www.arborday.org/trees/bulletins/resources/>

—March Minutes, continued from p. 3

Heartland Bank again a sponsor of plant sale

Yearbook: Elizabeth Vogt. Elizabeth is our new chairman. She will be doing some re-vamping of the book. Members are urged to update their personal information for the yearbook.

Facebook: Lori Linck, Holly Swehla. No report.

Scholarship: Jennifer Wittenberg. Jennifer announced we have a scholarship application.

Special Projects -

Wreath Decorating: Mary Yott. No report.

Monarch Initiative: Barbara Gollwitzer. They are still waiting for the arrival of the bench for Williams Park. They will be discussing plans for the Spring and Summer.

Ways and Means

Plant Sale: Cindy Cartner. Cindy reminded the members of the Plant Sale date, May 18 at Willams Park Pavillion. She reported how the plants should arrive from members, and she has many clean pots for planting. Also, Betty Collins and Co-Chairman, Nancy Zitkus, will be handling the Bake Sale. We will be having the Beekeeper and Wray Sharpening again along with our sponsor, Heartland Bank, with their popcorn machine. A donation of \$750 has been given to us by Heartland Bank. Nancy Colby will be ordering lunch.

New Business: President, Holly, reminded the members of the Spring Cleanup on April 6.

Announcements:

Garden Clubs of Illinois Annual Meeting and Luncheon, March 12, 2024.

March 27, 2024 – Antioch Garden Club Board Meeting.

April 13, 2024 – Antioch Garden Club Regular Meeting.

The raffle was conducted.

President, Holly, paused the meeting for refreshments and program.

No further business, the meeting was brought back to order and adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Zitkus, Secretary

—President's Message, continued from p. 1

It takes a lot of us to run the club seamlessly

I fully expect with as active as our club is, we will exceed all of these this year. Stay tuned.

Nancy Zitkus, Betty Collins, Judy Caldwell, Jane Buck, Nancy Colby and I attended. Laura Vertz also attended as she is the District IX Awards Chair. We had a wonderful day. The program was floral arrangements by John Regan of Twisted Stem Floral in Crystal Lake. John is an award-winning designer, and he created some incredible arrangements. Our very own Nancy Zitkus won one of them. (We failed to get a photo of it.)

Now, on to serious business. It really takes a lot of us to run the club seamlessly. Every two years we are in need of members to step up to participate in executive board positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and chairs and members of our standing committees. We will be asking you to consider adding your talents to this effort. Thank you in advance for your consideration. I feel we are a big pie, and each of us is a wonderful slice of that pie. At this upcoming April 13th regular meeting, we are on track to install five new members. We are growing, and I'm really excited to share our club and what we offer to the gardeners in the surrounding area. Let's make this our best year yet. The more the merrier. I KNOW there are lots more gardeners around us; we just need to reach them.

- Holly Markwart Swehla

Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby



Front row: Holly Swehla, Nancy Colby, Nancy Zitkus, Betty Collins, Jane Buck. Back row: Laura Vertz, Judy Caldwell

*Spring has come to AGC
It brought awards that we can see
We're thankful for the warm sunshine
We recognize that we are fine
It brought us to the district lunch
And we attended in a bunch
When awards were given out
It's "Antioch Garden Club" they
shout!*

Garden Club of Illinois 45th Annual District IX Meeting & Luncheon

Several of our members attended the District IX meeting and luncheon at Cotillion Banquets in Palatine March 12. It was a "swanky" event, and fun was in full bloom. The lunch was delicious. There were so many wonderful raffle items it was difficult to choose. Nancy Zitkus was the winner from her table, and took home a lovely garden tool set. John Regan from Twisted Stem Floral did a multitude of fantastic arrangements, which were also raffled off.

The lunch, raffle and demonstrations were all great but let's talk about the meeting and awards! Following the business meeting and installation of new officers, there was the annual award presentation. Laura Vertz, Awards Chair for District IX, took the podium. There were multiple awards in multiple categories handed out to various garden clubs in District IX. Antioch Garden Club is one of those wonderful garden clubs (or, with prejudice shall we say we're the best!). Our club won two awards! Certificates were awarded as well as a total of \$80 in award money to our club.



Our proud President Holly Markwart Swehla was called to the podium twice to receive AGC's two awards.

Awards Won

1st Place Ongoing Civic Project

Earned for our dedication to the gardens in the community.

2nd Place All Star Award

Earned for overall achievement to the goals and offerings of the Garden Club of Illinois and the National Garden Club.



President Holly Markwart Swehla and Nancy Colby proudly display AGC's two awards.

Proposed changes to Antioch Garden Club Bylaws

2024-2025

ARTICLE IV: DUES & FINANCE

PAGE 49

Section 2, 2nd Sentence

Reads: Dues for couples shall be \$50 per club year (July to June). There are 8 general meetings a club year – September, October, November, December, March, April, May and June.

CHANGE TO READ: Dues for couples shall be \$50 per club year (July 1st through June 30th). There are 9 regular meetings a club year – September, October, November, December, February, March, April, May and June.

Rationale: We added February back in because we now meet in the daytime.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

PAGE 51

Section 1

Reads: Meetings shall be held on the second Saturday of the month, except January, February, July and August.

CHANGE TO READ: Regular meetings shall be held on the second Saturday of the month, except January, July and August.

Rationale: We added February back in because we now meet in the daytime.

AREAS OF INTEREST COMMITTEES

PAGE 53

Section 2: Special Projects: Omit Committees TBA.

ADD a Section 4: Philanthropy/Arbor Day. Serve as outreach to community and world needs.

Rationale: This committee was omitted from our AREAS OF INTEREST COMMITTEE BY LAWS.

ARTICLE X: ELECTIONS

PAGE 53

Section 2: Add in May after the last sentence. (This report is presented in April and voted upon in May.)

Rationale: We added the month of May back into our meeting schedule.

Section 3: Last sentence. Reads: The installation shall be held at the Annual Meeting.

CHANGE TO READ: The installation shall be held at the June regular meeting.

By Law Committee: Nancy Zitkus, Norma Lucansky, Judy Caldwell, Holly Swehla, President

Save the Date: July 22

Garden Clubs of Ill. 2024 Summer Meeting Hosted by District IX

Cantigny Park, Wheaton

Landscaping for the Future: Sustainable Gardening for a Changing Climate

Garden Tours, Awards, Lunch and Presentation by Mike Nowak, from “The Mike Nowak Show”

THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

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April