

## Message from The President



It's Lincolnshire Garden Club's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. LGC was founded January 28, 1958 by Mrs. Roland Robinson. Garden Clubs of Illinois District IX will commemorate our anniversary at the GCI District IX Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, with a meeting theme: A Thyme to Bee Together. We'd like to encourage all who can attend to participate in this event. Go to the *EVENTS* tab on our website for more information on how to sign up for the Luncheon.

As many of you may know by now Mary Ainger, Community Beautification committee chair, recognized the need to revitalize the Blue Star Memorial Garden and launched our effort to take on this activity. LGC first installed this garden 60 years ago and is now due for a 'face lift'. This project is moving along at a good pace as both the Village of Lincolnshire and LGC have developed and approved a cost sharing plan to restore this living tribute to our service members. I'm looking forward to seeing continued progress to completion by sometime early to midsummer so our community can begin to enjoy this rejuvenated garden at Spring Lake.

I enjoyed the few sunny days that raced through recently, hopefully there will be more sunny and warm days to follow soon. The harbingers of spring Snow Drops, Galanthus, and Lenten Rose, Helleborus alba, in our garden are blossoming and promising warmer weather to come. I see other bulbs starting their cautious reveal with daffodils, hyacinths, chionodoxa all sending up their leaves throughout the garden.

## March General Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2023

### "Water-wise Gardening"

Sue Hazelwood

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener



Continental Breakfast – 9:30 AM

Business Meeting – 9:45 AM

Program – 10:30 AM

This presentation focuses on developing a sizzling garden that uses plants do that not thirst for a lot of water. Recommended drought-tolerant plants are stars at not only surviving oppressive conditions—they thrive. As climate change impacts our lives and our gardens more each year, the needs of our gardens have changed. Learning about what works now is ever more important.

## In This Issue

Message from The President

March General Meeting

Education Report

Book Review

Membership News

CBG Monthly Garden Checklist

Kim Hartmann's Amaryllis Care Tips

Kombucha Brewing—Lori Hartnett

Message from the Editor

Board of Directors & Standing Committees

## Education Report



David Brooks, Manager of Conservation Services,  
Vera Meineke Nature Center

Our February General Meeting speaker was David Brooks' presentation: "Lazy Gardener's Guide to Green Gardening" was both entertaining and informative. A few of his most interesting suggestions:

### Alternative to Chemical Control of Pests

A landscape with healthy soils and a diversity of native plants generally has much fewer problems with pests.

- Corn gluten meal—This weed control for lawns inhibits the germination of weeds. It is non-toxic and biodegradable.
- Floating row covers— They let in light, air and water but keeps insects off garden vegetables.
- Insecticidal soaps— They kill soft-bodied insects.
- Neem oil—This extract from tropical tree seeds is a very effective non-toxic deterrent

### Natural Lawn Care

The foundation of successful natural lawn care is healthy soil, rich in beneficial microorganisms and insects. This, in turn, promotes healthy turf.

- Mow grass when it is 4 inches high and mow no shorter than 3 inches high. This results in less weeds, healthier turf and less frequent mowing.
- If watering a lawn, water deeply (one inch of water no more than once each week) in the early morning hours.
- If fertilizing lawn, apply fertilizers in mid-spring and autumn only, and use a low nitrogen (less than 30%), slow release form of fertilizer (Concern, Espoma, cottonseed meal, dried poultry waste, or compost).
- Consider seeding in white clover to your lawn as a way to naturally boost the soil fertility (clover fixes nitrogen into the soil).

## Book Review

Recommended by David Brooks



**"A veritable goldmine for gardeners." —*Plant Talk***

We've all seen gorgeous perennial gardens packed with color, texture, and multi-season interest. Designed by a professional and maintained by a crew, they are aspirational bits of beauty too difficult to attempt at home. Or are they?

**The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden** makes a design-magazine-worthy garden achievable at home. The new, simplified approach is made up of hardy, beautiful plants grown on a 10x14 foot grid.

Each of the 62 garden plans combines complementary plants that thrive together and grow as a community. They are designed to make maintenance a snap.

The garden plans can be followed explicitly or adjusted to meet individual needs, unlocking rich perennial landscape designs for individualization and creativity.

## Message from The President (Continued)

I finally opened the box from our November meeting that contains the planter of hyacinths. I am very curious how everyone else's hyacinth bulbs are doing. Please take pictures of your hyacinth planters and send them to Nancy Slatin. It will be fun to see the results. The amaryllis I planted indoors were very successful. The stunning elegant flowers brighten up our kitchen.

I ordered pollinator plants from our plant sale and I'm waiting for a drier day so I can clear the Northern Sea Oats, a grass that has volunteered and filled in the new garden area which will include host plants for Monarchs and other butterflies. It is not in a prominent area so I will welcome the butterfly eggs and hungry caterpillars eating the tender new plants to nibs. Even if the plants get eaten, the roots will still be growing to support a more vigorous plant and more butterflies next year. It doesn't seem like too much work when I dream about butterflies, hummingbirds and family enjoying the view of nature.

During the winter I've kept busy growing my "pets". I brew kombucha and make sourdough bread and other goodies. If you would like a SCOBY to brew your own kombucha I am happy to share. Our son shared some of his sourdough Starter and it is growing all too happily. If you are interested in baking with sourdough I have lots of starter to contribute, it's quite lively.

Looking forward to seeing everyone as we end our hibernation and begin to thaw out. Please do your best to join at the March meeting and please remember to send your pictures of the hyacinths to Nancy.

Regards,

Kathleen Abdo



Jana Wagner's hyacinths

## Membership News

Just a note from the Membership team to announce we have a new member! Welcome to Julie Russell, and please note the following information for your yearbook:

### **Julie Russell**

1321 Mansion Road  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
russeje411@gmail.com  
224/804-7377c

Also, **Lorraine Jette** has a new address as follows:

890 Audobon Way Apt. 502  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069  
They are only keeping their cell phone number 847/217-7199

We now have 57 members.

Thank you,  
Lori Hartnett and Jan Shapiro

## Want to Appear in the Flower Press?

To Submit an article or Photo, send it to [nancy@slatinassociates.com](mailto:nancy@slatinassociates.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

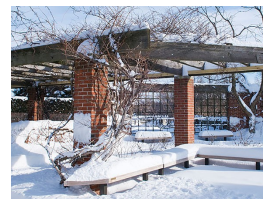


# Chicago Botanic Garden's Monthly Garden Checklist

## Fruit, Vegetable and Herb Care

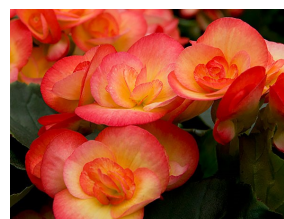
When soil temperatures are consistently in the 50s, sow seeds of cool-season vegetables directly into the garden. If seeds were started indoors, small transplants can be moved outside after a period of adjustment.

Cool-season vegetables that can be direct-seeded include the root crops of beets, carrots, radishes, parsnips and turnips; the leaf crops of chard, loose-leaf lettuces, spinach, mesclun mix, mustard and collard greens, and kale. The crops that should be started indoors and moved outside as transplants are broccoli, the cabbages, and cauliflowers.



## Indoor Plant Care

Fertilize houseplants as they begin new growth. Try low dosages of organic fertilizers or a very dilute, balanced granular fertilizer rather than stronger formulas. Telltale white salt markings on terra cotta pots indicate overuse of fertilizer. Flush out soil of overfertilized plants with plain water. Propagate houseplants. Softwood cuttings, leaf cuttings, air-layering, cane cuttings, or division may all be done this spring.

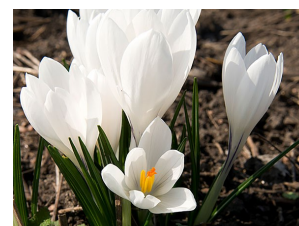


Start seeds of warm-season annuals and vegetables in a moist, soilless seed mix. These seeds are started six to eight weeks before the spring frost date of May 15. Transplant tiny seedlings into a "growing on" mix in slightly larger containers when they have two sets of true leaves. Gradually introduce small plants to outdoor conditions. They can be planted in containers or garden beds after May 15.

## Annual and Perennial Care

Look for early spring-blooming bulbs (sometimes beneath the snow or ground cover). If necessary, divide clumps of old, nonblooming bulbs or fertilize with a 5-10-5 granular fertilizer now and again in fall. Mark the spots with small stakes for locating next fall.

Gently press back any perennials that heaved out of the ground over the winter. Mulch those plants with several inches of shredded material. As days warm up, gradually pull back mulch from around perennial crowns. Remove dead leaves from perennial clumps taking care not to injure emerging new leaves. Cut back to the ground all perennials and ornamental grasses that were left standing for winter interest. Prune back to 12 inches stems of autumn-flowering clematis vines.



## General Garden Care

On dry days remove winter debris from lawn and garden beds. Check for broken branches (prune immediately) or plants damaged by snow loads or rodents. Remove burlap screens erected to protect plants from wind or road salt spray. To avoid compacting garden soil, wait until it has dried out before tilling, planting, or even walking in the garden beds. Mix in 6 inches or more of compost or leaf mold to lighten heavy soil.

## Kim Hartmann's Amaryllis Care Tips

As we learned at our November 2022 'Forcing Bulbs Workshop' amaryllis bulbs can be rebloomed year after year. After blooming, keep the foliage alive, treating it like a houseplant. The foliage will feed the bulb for next year. The plant can be kept outdoors in summer. As fall approaches, withhold water so that the foliage dies. Place the bulb in 55 degree temperatures for 8-10 weeks. After, that begin watering again and place in warmer temperatures. The plant should form a new flower stalk then new leaves.



# “It’s slippery, it’s rubbery, it floats, its totally weird!”

by Lori Hartnett

What is the most unusual food or beverage you have ever made? For me, it started with a SKOBY, a.k.a. Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast. It’s slippery, it’s rubbery, it floats, it’s totally weird! Yet, it’s also pretty awesome. A SKOBY blends with sweetened tea, which then ferments to produce a delicious, slightly sour, mostly nonalcoholic, fizzy and refreshing beverage called Kombucha.

This drink has become increasingly popular as a potential source of probiotics (which are live organisms) and other happy things, that help balance the intestinal flora. It’s easy to drink and digest, and it allows you to replenish your gut with good bacteria and restore your digestive health. Since the SKOBY bacteria and yeast eat most of the sugar in the sweetened tea, Kombucha is relatively low in calories and sugar.

I’ve always loved testing and experimenting with food and beverages (after all, I spent my career in test kitchens developing and testing recipes and food products). I was also a consumer of purchased Kombucha, but got weary of paying high prices. While chatting with Kathleen Abdo one day, (an avid kombucha brewer), she informed me of how her home-brewed kombucha helps to boost her health and well-being. She offered me a SKOBY and I was off and running. The cost savings of home brewing are significant! By the way, did you know you can purchase a SKOBY on Amazon? Now I know they practically carry everything!

If you are interested in brewing Kombucha, you will need a gallon jar, which you can purchase with cheesecloth included to cover the jar during the initial fermentation step. Also, glass bottles with swing-top lids work best when you add the fruit of your choice before continuing the second fermentation. Upon experimenting, my favorite blend is kiwi and chopped ginger; in fact, I have nearly matched my previous store-bought brand in flavor and fizz. Many books and on-line articles are available for recipes and tips if you are ready to jump into the delicious craft of brewing kombucha!

**Ginger Kiwi Kombucha**



**New Batch of Sweet Tea with SKOBY**



**The Big Book of Kombucha**



## Save The Date—Saturday, July 22, 2023

The Lincolnshire Garden Club will have a Garden Walk on July 22. Advance tickets and day of tickets will be offered. Watch for more details on the website: <https://lincolnshiregardenclub.com/fundraisers>

## Letter From The Editor

Dear Fellow LGC Member,

Happy Spring! As I mentioned, I am the Chairman of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. State Convention on Sunday, April 16 and Monday, April 17, 2023 at the Chicago Marriott Naperville. We are anticipating an attendance of 150-200. To date, we have exceeded last year's Early Bird registration count. Registrar, Mary Ainger has put her expert Excel skills to use in tracking all our attendees, their clubs, and entrée choices. One lucky Early Bird attendee will win a free Convention Registration package (\$160 value) on Monday afternoon. Mary will be pulling the winning lotto ball from the spinning raffle box!

Under Raffle Chairman and GCI District IX Director, Barbara Gilblair's leadership, several clubs have begun to assemble gift baskets or purchase gift cards for the raffle. We will have a silent auction featuring an African Safari, rounds of golf, and Chicago White Sox tickets, to name a few of the offerings. Our Committee has also planned a 50/50 cash split and is raffling off a wheelbarrow of wine.

Sponsorships remain strong with Davey Tree, Red's Garden Center, and The Mulch Center, joining Ball Horticultural Company, Bartlett Tree Experts and SavATree, helping to underwrite the soft costs of the Convention and keep it affordable to attend.

Boutique Chairman, Trish Hughes has sold all the available tables at the Convention. The Boutique hours are from 12 pm to 4 pm on Sunday and from 8 am to 3 pm on Monday. We will be joined by Anything Orchids, Fine Jewelry by Karen, Gardening Sew 'N Sews, Originals by Karen, Rowan Pix, Saavy Spirit, Sheets by Karen, Shelly Lawler, and Wood Art Expressions.

As for the presenters, Pam Karlson, one of last year's best speakers, will share tips on "Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis in Your Back Yard". The afternoon's Floral Designer is the talented and dynamic Eileen Looby Weber, of Lake Forest Flowers.

Sincere thanks to Linda Lutz for designing the Convention logo as well as she and Linda Taylor for their work on the Life Member wrist corsages we will be assembling in early March.

I am thrilled that six members of the Lincolnshire Garden Club will be attending the Convention. If you are thinking of attending, it's not too late. Just go to the LGC website and the forms are on the Events page. Mail or drop off your registration to Mary Ainger prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee. I hope to see you at the Marriott next month!

Nancy Slatin

## LGC Board of Directors

### 2022-23

#### Executive Officers

President:	Kathleen Abdo
VP Ways & Means:	Linnea Lahlum Jana Wagner
VP Programs:	Helen Wilson
VP Allocations:	Trish Hughes
Recording Secretary:	Meg Zimmermann-Board Laura Chilis - General
Corresponding Secretary	Joan Keyes
Treasurer/Asst. Secretary	Carey Lyman-Cordes

#### Standing Committees

Community Beautification: Mary Ainger, Jan Stefans  
Depke: Ann Maine (head), Jan Stefans, Kathy Boss  
Environmental Awareness: Ann Maine  
Field Trips: Kay Siess  
Garden Therapy: Kathleen Abdo, Meg Zimmermann  
Garden Clubs of Illinois Liaison: Nancy Slatin  
Historian: Barb Gilman  
Hospitality: Jan Stefans  
Membership: Lori Hartnett, Jan Shapiro  
Newsletter: Nancy Slatin  
Parliamentarian: Helen Wilson  
Plant Education: Kay Siess  
Pollinator: Marj Lundy  
Social Media: Jan Edelson  
Web Site: Mary Ainger  
Weed and Wine: Mary Ainger  
Women's Residential Services: Judy Jenner  
Yearbook: Meg Zimmermann

#### Social Media

Website: [lincolnshiregardenclub.com](http://lincolnshiregardenclub.com)  
Facebook: Lincolnshire Garden Club

#### OUR MISSION

The mission of the Lincolnshire Garden Club is to provide financial support to promote community beautification, nature restoration, environmental responsibility and to further the education of members and the public in the fields of ecology and conservation, home gardening, horticulture, landscape, and floral design.

