

Message from The President



Spring is here but March has not followed the often-quoted proverb this year as it was more like it came in like a lamb, with the unseasonably warm weather and gentle rains then went out like a lion, with snow, freezing temperatures and crazy forceful storms. Truth be told, I didn't mind the cold weather because it is helping my cold stratification experiment.

To give you an update on the milk jug cloches that are in a garden in the backyard, the experiment is coming along well and I'm full of hope and optimism:) I planted the milk jugs in the warm stretch of February, then set them out in the weather to cold-stratify. I peeked inside the milk jugs and was excited to see the amsonia blue star is starting to sprout. The asclepias are a little behind but I'm not giving up hope because they don't start showing their leaves until later, maybe as late as June. After they finally sprout the asclepias usually don't bloom the first year, so this is going to be a long commitment but still worthwhile as I have read that the monarchs will lay eggs on the tender plants even though they don't have blooms. I'm full of anticipation and I'll keep you updated on the progress.

Our daffodils survived the snow fall and recent cold weather spell. The spring bulbs are opening up and creating a cheery mix of spring flowers including the tulips from the Fall Bulb Sale. They do clash with the dry grasses and flower stems that I left in the garden to provide material for the birds to build their nests and feed on the insects as they emerge from their winter homes.

(Continued on Page 2)

April Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2024

"Best New Plants for 2024"



Continental Breakfast – 9:30 AM

Business Meeting – 9:45 AM

Program – 10:30 AM

Kim Hartmann, Landscape Architect, a favorite speaker at club meetings, will highlight the best new annuals, perennials, roses, vegetables, shrubs and trees for 2024. Only those plants with unique new features that are successful in our region make that list.

Kim is employed by Rosborough Partners, as its Team Development Director and Purchasing Manager. Rosborough Partners is a landscape design/build/maintenance company in Libertyville.

Kim will have numerous samples for a show and tell display in addition to a beautiful display on screen. Don't be surprised if a few of her samples are for sale (though that is not a given)!

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Message from The President

(Continued)

The other big event coming up this month is that North America will experience the world's longest land based total solar eclipse in over a decade. A partial eclipse will take place on April 8 which, in Chicago, will begin around 12:50 p.m. and last until 3:20 p.m. That's about two and a half hours of exciting viewing time. To help prepare for the eclipse VAPLD is providing related information, including classes for kids and teens. There will be a limited supply of glasses available for cardholders to use when watching. This will be quite a special display of daytime darkness that won't happen again for about two decades so do all you can to experience this rare event.

Moving on to LGC news, I want to let you know that the Nomination Committee worked hard to come up with candidates to fill several positions on the Executive Board. It's exciting to see some newer members getting involved bringing fresh energy and new ideas to make LGC even better. The membership will vote on the nominees at the April General Meeting. Please give this high priority and come to vote. We'll also be reviewing the treasurer's budget proposal for next year in preparation for membership's approval.

I also want to let you know that there have been some changes with the Standing Committees as well. Judy Jenner will be stepping down from the Women's Residential Services (WRS) Garden Therapy Program. Judy and the committee have done an amazing job taking a barren area and turning it into a pleasant place for the WRS residents to learn about planting and caring for a garden in which they can relax and enjoy the beauty they created. Thank you, Judy, for all the years spent putting together this program and showing the residents the joys of gardening and enjoying the fruits of their labor. If you're interested in leading this WRS program next year please contact me.

We anticipate that a few other Standing Committee positions will be open as we are striving to lighten the load of a few current Standing Committee Chairs who have been wearing multiple hats and carrying a hefty load. I ask you to consider one of these positions which are Hospitality, Weed and Wine and WRS standing committees. To learn more about these roles, please consult the bylaws in the Yearbook, ask the current chair about the position, or call me. Joining the board and leading one of these standing committees with your new and fresh ideas is a great way to help make our LGC a better organization to provide community service, foster new friendships and become fully immersed in the joys of gardening.

The obelisks pictured here will be included in the plant sale along with the extra plants Jana mentions in this newsletter. They stand about four and a half feet tall with a couple different styles designed and constructed by Jana Wagner, Trish Hughes and I. They were made from repurposed posts from another LGC project. Our spouses are ecstatic at the opportunity to reclaim their real estate!

Thank you, Jana for the egg dye recipe using natural ingredients. It brings back memories of when our kids were little, my mother-in-law would dye eggs with onion skins and beets. Our kids liked to draw designs with a white crayon on the shells and the designs would magically be revealed during the coloring process.



I want to remind everyone Arbor Day is on April 26. If you have planted trees between April 2023 and March 2024, please let me know so we can include it in the count we're keeping to submit to GCI in pursuit of an award. Our current count stands at 53 so please let me know if you can help that number 'grow'.

(Continued on Page 5)

Cicada-Mania!!

by Marj Lundy



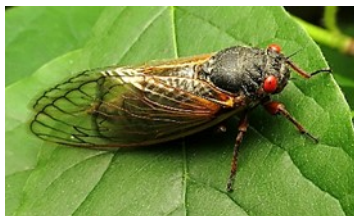
The alarm clock is ready to ring for periodical cicadas of Lake County. The previous mass emergence of these impressive bugs in 2007 set the alarm for 2024. During spring and summer, 17 years ago, millions of cicadas tunneled out of the soil, crawled up trees, sang, mated, laid eggs, and completed their life cycle. 2024 will be a magical year for their offspring!

Cicadas, often mistakenly called locusts, overwinter in the soil as nymphs. After completing the 17-year cycle below ground, the full-grown nymphs make their way up to the surface where they crawl up a convenient vertical object such as a tree trunk. They emerge in Northern Illinois in late spring and are present for about 4 to 6 weeks. The outer covering (exoskeleton) of the nymph splits open, and the winged adult emerges, leaving behind the hollow skin casing. The adult cicada lives for 20-25 days. They feed briefly, then mate and lay hundreds of eggs. The eggs hatch in six or seven weeks. The nymphs fall to the ground and burrow into the soil, seeking suitable roots to which they can attach their mouthparts. They will remain there for 17 years, starting the cycle all over again. There also are so-called annual cicadas which spend 2 to 5 years below ground, but because of overlapping broods, emerge every year, in much fewer numbers than the periodicals.

This is a phenomenon to be celebrated. Yes, they're raucous in their mating ritual and may crunch underfoot sometimes, but they really aren't here for very long. Consider some of the positives: cicadas provide a food bonanza for other animals. I monitor Bluebird nest boxes at Ryerson Woods, and one of the very best years my monitoring team had in terms of the number of successful fledglings was 2007. Plenty of food for growing hatchlings; the evidence was cicada wings and other pieces in the nests after the young fledged. Also, the nymphs' emergence tunnels in the ground act as a natural aeration of the soil. And after they die, their decaying bodies contribute a massive amount of nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil.

Just in case you are adventurous -- periodical cicadas are best eaten when they are still white!! They taste like cold canned asparagus. Like all insects, cicadas have a good balance of vitamins, are low in fat, and, especially the females, are high in protein. English settlers here in the 1700's equated the massive "locust" emergence with plagues. They'd heard that John the Baptist and others ate them, and we know that cicadas have also been a part of the Native American diet.

So, let's welcome these interesting and noisy critters. They are truly amazing!



(Sources: NBC program, Morton Arboretum, Lake County Forest Preserves District)

The Garden Clubs of Illinois District IX Annual Meeting Highlights

Nancy Slatin

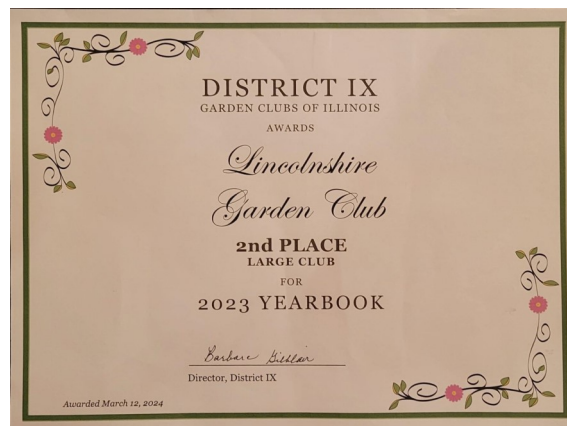


On Tuesday, March 12, Mary Ainger, Kay Siess, Jan Stefans and I attended The Garden Clubs of Illinois; District IX Annual Meeting in Palatine. We are pictured with GCI President Diane Dawson (right). This year's co-hosts were the Northbrook Garden Club and the Park Ridge Garden Club. The theme was "Come Into My Garden".

The Lincolnshire Garden Club was asked to donate a gift basket and Trish Hughes volunteered to design and assemble our donation. It's theme was "A Spring Charcuterie". The basket contained several treats for hosting a gathering including crackers, jams, cheese, meats, sweets, two charcuterie boards and two bottles of wine. Thanks to our budget, and donations from members of the Board, we were able to offer a prize with a value of \$185. Needless to say, our basket was one of the most desired prizes in the raffle.



The morning began with the Business Meeting. Imagine our surprise when the Lincolnshire Garden Club took 2nd Place in the Yearbook Category for Large Clubs. Congratulations to Meg Zimmerman who produces the Yearbook for us. The certificate was accompanied by a \$30 check. Below Mary Ainger is pictured accepting our certificate and check with the first place winners from Park Ridge Garden Club and the third place winner from The Des Plaines Garden Club.



Not only did we win 2nd place for best yearbook, we learned that our original Blue Star Memorial Marker is the oldest in District IX, having been dedicated in 1962. Our Club also was recognized by GCI President Diane Dawson for our Blue Star Memorial Dedication and luncheon on July 4th where she was the guest of honor. She said it was one of the best experiences of her Presidency. It felt great to receive this recognition in just our third year back in GCI.

After lunch, we enjoyed a floral demonstration by John Regan of the Twisted Stem Floral in Crystal Lake. His displays were beautiful, unusual and unforgettable.

Fundraising



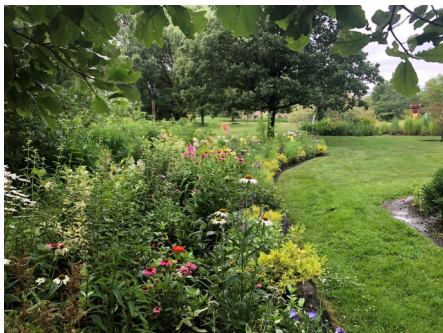
Depending on the day, Spring is in the air and there's also much to think about regarding our fundraising efforts. To begin with, watch for an email next week with full details about the 2025 trip to England and the Chelsea Flower Show (pictured above). A few weeks will be given to all members to think about the trip before committing. Then it will be opened up to family members and friends.

In addition, May 17th and 18th will be setup and pickup days for the Plant Sale. A signup sheet will be passed around at April's general meeting for all volunteer opportunities. For those of you that missed our March meeting, it was mentioned that there will be plenty of extra perennials and annuals to purchase in case you ordered some but want more or if you forgot to place an order and need some. Thank you in advance for sharing some of your time on this endeavor.

Sincerely,
Jana Wagner
VP Ways and Means

Save The Date

'A Walk in the Shire'



Saturday, July 20, 2024—10am—3pm

Message from The President

(Continued)

The Memorial Service for Past President, Rosanne Barrett, mother of Ann Maine and Jeanne Top, will be held on April 6th. Visitation: Saturday, April 06 2024; 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM at St. Patrick Church Lake Forest, 928 W Everett Rd, Lake Forest, IL 60045. The church has a new entrance on Everett Road. Memorial Mass is to follow. Saturday, April 06 2024; 10:00 AM. There will be a luncheon after the service. If attending the luncheon, please RSVP to Ann Maine or Jeanne Top.

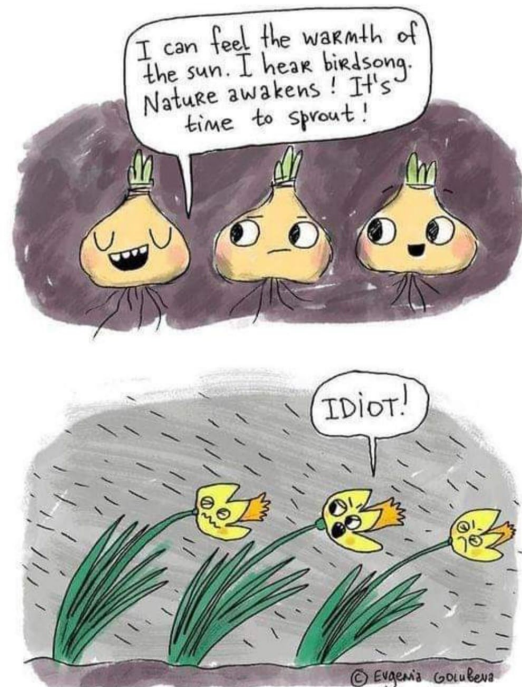


I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the next meeting when we will learn about "The Best New Plants for 2024". I wonder what the featured color of flowers will be this year.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays with your family and friends,

Kathleen Abdo

From the Old Farmers Almanac



Education Report



“Biomimicry—Looking to Nature to Solve Today’s Problems”

On Thursday, March 21st, Kim White presented a fascinating program to the members of LGC.

What is Biomimicry? Bio = life Mimicry = the action or art of imitating someone or something.

The term biomimicry was first used in 1982. It is the imitation of the models, systems, and elements of nature for the purpose of solving complex problems.

What are the Principles of Biomimicry?

- Nature Runs on Sunlight
- Nature Uses Only the Energy it Needs
- Nature Fits Form to Function
- Nature Recycles Everything
- Nature Rewards Cooperating
- Nature Banks on Diversity
- Nature Demands Local Expertise
- Nature Taps the Power of Limits.

Kim presented several examples of how observations of nature influenced countless inventions, from bioluminescence in lightning bugs, the coconut octopus, cuttlefish and algae. Below are two samples she brought to share: a gecko and a hedgehog.



National Garden Clubs’



Path of Success

The Lincolnshire Garden Club has purchased a personalized brick in a quarter-mile long walking path that will be located on the grounds of National Garden Clubs’ Headquarters in St. Louis. The path will link to the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Lincolnshire GC, IL
Growing Together
Since 1958

Our brick will be displayed with others from the State of Illinois.

Nominating Report 2024-25

Nominating Committee

Mary Ainger, Jane Bisk, Laura Chilis, Trish Hughes
Helen Wilson

The Slate of Officers for 2024/25 was presented to the General Membership:

Slate of Officers

President—Kathleen Abdo
Vice President Allocations—Lorrie Hardy
Vice President Programs—Helen Wilson
Vice President Ways & Means—Jana Wagner
Recording Secretary (Board)—Nancy Romanchek
Recording Secretary (General) —Trish Hughes
Corresponding Secretary—Nancy Slatin
Treasurer/Assistant Secretary—Meg Zimmermann

House Plant Fertilization

Kay Siess



Top Tips

- Restart Fertilization of Indoor Plants in March
- However, you need to replace the nutrients in the soil of any plant that has been in the same pot > 1 year.
- Or you can repot into new soil but the stress of that can be harmful to the plant if a repot isn't needed. Try fertilizing instead!
- What Forms of Fertilizer? Liquid/Granular or Water-soluble? Synthetic or Organic?
- Each has a specific use; read the label or ask and expert.
- Between feedings, water plants thoroughly to avoid buildup of minerals in and around the roots.
- Follow directions on the label. Some organics are mild enough to use with every watering.
- Houseplant Fertilizer with a 3-1-2 (N) Nitrogen to (P)Phosphorus to (K) Potassium is the most desirable ratio.
- Nitrogen (N) - for lush foliage and stem growth
- Phosphorous (P) - for a healthy root system
- Potassium (K) - supports cellular growth and aids in photosynthesis allowing the plant to work efficiently for faster growth and helps lower the plants' stress level.

Message from The Editor

Dear Friends,

Much thanks to this month's contributors: Kathleen Abdo, Judy Jenner, Marj Lundy, Kay Siess and Jana Wagner. I appreciate you taking the time to send me your content.

The Flower Press is looking for an Assistant Editor to initially work with me, then produce the newsletter.

If you enjoy writing and would like to share our stories, please contact me for more information (847) 514-1122 or nancy@slatinassociates.com.

Thanks!

Nancy Slatin

Plant Humor

SLICE OF MALLOW



The Orchid Show of Wonders

Chicago Botanic Garden—February 10-March 24, 2024



The Big Apple Gets a Tiny Forest:

1,000 native plants coming to New York - The Guardian



A tiny forest filled with more than 1,000 native plants will spring up in New York City come April on a 2,700 sq ft plot of land on the southern tip of Manhattan's Roosevelt Island.

It will be the city's first pocket forest, and supporters say it will bring both the beauty of increased biodiversity and tangible benefits to residents navigating increasingly extreme weather.

Pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1970s, the concept of planting dense, fast-growing trees and shrubs is popular across Asia, Europe, Africa, South America and the Middle East. In the US, cities like Los Angeles; Berkeley, California; Portland, Oregon; and Cambridge, Massachusetts, have created mini forests with native plant species.

"Today our cities are concrete on concrete," Elise Van Middlelem, founder of SUGi, a non-profit that will plant species like white oak, Virginia strawberry, New York fern and eastern white pine on Roosevelt Island. "When floods come or it rains really hard, there's no more permeable surfaces. So one of the benefits [of mini forests] is that they act as sponges."

There is an array of benefits in planting Miyawaki-style forests, including cooling, shade, water and carbon absorption, as well as the restoration of ecosystems that can serve as a home to wildlife such as birds and insects.

"Biodiversity is completely linked with the climate crisis," Van Middlelem said. "The array of beauty that comes back where there was nothing is just remarkable."

Planted in soil usually enriched with compost, layers of shrubs and canopy have been shown to grow at a [high rate](#) as they compete for sunlight. Once planted, these dense patches of greenery can thrive in small urban spaces without much upkeep.

"I'm thrilled about this kind of green infrastructure that actually cools the neighborhood at a time of global warming," said Manhattan's borough president, Mark Levine. "We can and should do more of these. I'd like to see the next one in low-income communities of color that have far fewer street trees than wealthier parts of the city."

On high heat days, people of color and low-income residents shoulder the highest burden of heat due to poor air quality and lack of trees and shade, as well as inadequate cooling systems. Based on peak summer temperature assessments, the neighborhood of the south Bronx was 8F (4.5C) hotter than the wealthier areas of the Upper West Side and the Upper East Side.

At roughly \$200 per 10 sq ft, the cost of the tiny forest in Roosevelt Island is estimated to be \$54,000, according to Van Middlelem. It will be planted in an unused garden space leased from the city. With more than 300 volunteers and counting, the planting is scheduled for 6 April.

A Natural Way to Dye Easter Eggs

SPECIAL PROJECT

ALL-NATURAL DYE JOB

Mix 1 quart water with 2 Tbsp white vinegar and bring to a boil, then follow the recipes below.

beets

Soak 4 cups chopped beets in mixture 30 min. Strain, then allow eggs to sit in liquid 30 min., or more for deeper tones.



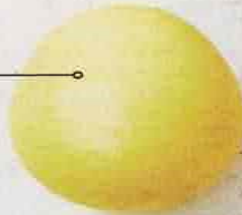
onion skins

Add 4 cups yellow-onion skins to mixture. Simmer 30 min., then strain. Allow eggs to sit in liquid 30 min.



turmeric

Add 3 Tbsp turmeric to mixture. Simmer 30 min., let cool and soak eggs in mixture until they reach desired shade.



cabbage

Add 3 cups red or purple cabbage to mixture. Simmer 30 min., then strain. Allow eggs to soak overnight for brightest shade.



blueberries

Combine 4 cups blueberries with mixture. Simmer 30 min., strain, then allow eggs to sit in liquid 30 min., or more for deeper tones.



Tulips of Spring



GCI Upcoming Events

GCI Annual Convention

April 20-23, 2024

Crowne Plaza Hotel

3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois



GCI Summer Meeting

Monday, July 22, 2024

Cantigny

1S151 Winfield Road
Wheaton, Illinois

“Landscaping for the Future’ Sustainable
Gardening for a Changing Climate”



To access the Members Only Page
on the GCI Website

Go to the Member Information Tab and enter the
Password: **GardenClub22**

LGC Board of Directors

2023-24

Officers

President	Kathleen Abdo
VP Ways & Means	Jana Wagner
VP Programs	Helen Wilson
VP Allocations	Trish Hughes
Recording Secretary	Meg Zimmermann
Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Slatin
Treasurer/Asst. Secretary	Carey Lyman-Cordes

Standing Committees

Community Beautification: Mary Ainger, Jan Stefans
Depke: Ann Maine (head), Jan Stefans
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: Lorrie Hardy
Web Site: Lorrie Hardy
Weed and Wine: Mary Ainger
Women’s Residential Services: Judy Jenner
Yearbook: Meg Zimmermann

Social Media

Website: <https://lincolnshiregardenclub.com>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LincolnshireGardenClub>

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.

