

Message from The President



This is my last President's Letter for The Flower Press (I can hear the sighs of relief!). I've enjoyed this responsibility working alongside various committees to carry out the activities of LGC over the last three years. Our amazing volunteer board worked tirelessly to keep LGC relevant and connected to the community. They explored new fundraising opportunities, put together interesting educational programs, set up fascinating field trips and provided many ways for us to learn about a variety of topics.

To prove the adage that one hand cannot clap alone, I want to highlight the contributions made by all of the board members, their commitment and their selfless effort over the years to help ensure our club continues to be a vibrant place we all belong to and are proud to be part of. Please excuse the added length of this last letter but I cannot wind down my last letter without sharing highlights of some of their work below.

Jana Wagner, VP Ways and Means was a role model for coming up with new ways to raise funds to support our philanthropic goals. She initiated new improvements for the fundraisers including changing the way LGC procures plants for the Plant Sale, reducing the risk of jumping worm spread. The Garden Walk is a new and successful fundraiser that has been very successful in extending our reach to gardeners beyond LGC. Group Travel is another new fundraiser fostering bonds between LGC members and allowing them to travel to places on their bucket lists. I appreciate all of Jana's and various committee members working together to raise funds and enhance community awareness of LGC.

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June Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Annual Summer Members' Luncheon



Luncheon and Meeting - 11:30 am

Join us as we mark the culmination of a successful year for the Lincolnshire Garden Club.

We will meet for a members' only luncheon and meeting at the home of Andrea Fossier, 307 Carlisle Lane, Lake Forest.

At the meeting, LGC Officers for the 2025-26 year will be installed.

Provided the weather is nice, and you would like to sit outside, please bring a folding chair. We hope for a pleasant summer day for our final gathering of the 2024-25 year.

If planning to attend, please RSVP to Debbie Gripper (stargrip@aol.com or 847-323-2464) prior to noon on Friday, June 13th.

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Fundraising—Chelsea Flower Show

Flowers, Flowers and more Flowers

And that's not all we saw! House tours through centuries old homes and manors with exquisite furnishings and artwork were included in this wonderful trip. Our tour guide, Gavin, was nothing but superb with historical knowledge, humor, instructions, and unending patience. Lunch and dinners arranged by Gavin did not disappoint. New friends were made from all over the USA that also enjoy and appreciate learning about plants and garden design.



Our next day started in Wardington, at a luscious tiered private garden called Pettifers, a garden inspired by the colors of India. The garden descends in levels towards the medieval landscape. Borders with shale pathways or mowed grass invited us to wander and enjoy a faraway vista. At least two of us were taken with the idea of incorporating a natural meadow in our own landscape mixed with wildflowers.

All of us were able to explore a lot or a little of London before our official trip started at the Chelsea Flower Show. The day started early, so as to beat the crowds. Most of us took in the large outside showcases to begin with which included 'rooms' full of ideas for installing natives, sustainable gardening, and hardscape that was to die for. The Show has definitely moved away from displaying and encouraging formal gardens.

English people that we lunched with or shared afternoon tea told of their Chelsea Flower Show experiences. Both couples had been attending for many years. It was a much loved tradition. One woman told of her childhood memories of playing games around the tall obelisk WWI memorial in an empty field that now holds this annual event. Every member of our group had many take-aways from the awesome experience.



Fundraising—Chelsea Flower Show

Flowers, Flowers and more Flowers

Then we made our way to the 17th century Rousham House and Garden, a grand estate. After a tour of the home we took a leisurely tour of the expansive grounds, designed by William Kent, where mythical statues, ponds, and towering trees gave way to long views.

Back at the house we walked through a beautiful Knot Garden. Finally, on our way to Cirencester, we passed right by the famous Arlington Row cottages.



A stop at the 18th century Buscot Park started off the next day. Again, we were treated to a house tour, lived in today by Lord Faringdon and his family, which shows off Murano glass chandeliers, Rembrandt, Rubens, Botticelli, and wall murals featuring the story of Cinderella by Burne-Jones. Yet, in this version, the prince doesn't quite make it to where his true love lies.

Walking the grounds we encountered a magnificent Monkey Puzzle tree and the Atlas Cedar trees amongst ponds, long avenues, a lake, and plenty of sculptures. Following lunch we made it to The Pig, a 17th century hotel in the village of Barnsley. Its gardens were designed by Rosemary Verey in the arts and craft style. We thoroughly enjoyed the ornamental gardens and the Kitchen Garden, not to mention the charming hotel.



Fundraising—Chelsea Flower Show

Flowers, Flowers and more Flowers

The next day we made our way to Sudeley Castle Gardens and its 1,000 years of English royalty, romance, ruin, and revival. Included at Sudeley Castle were ten gardens and the Tithe Barn ruins, Castle Rooms, and St Mary's Church with Queen Katherine Parr's remains. The home is currently lived in by Lady Ashcombe.



Following lunch we landed at Hidcote Manor Garden, one of the country's most celebrated gardens. We walked through intimate formal areas revealing a different atmosphere or new vista at every turn. The creator, Lawrence Johnston, used newly discovered plants and exotics from around the world. As I wandered by the Productive Gardens, I spotted some young men playing croquet. And, many of us were able to get up close to the grazing sheep.



Fundraising—Chelsea Flower Show

Flowers, Flowers and more Flowers



To our great surprise, on our way to the first stop of the day, Gasper Cottage, we happened by Stonehenge. It was so exciting for people that had never seen it!



Gasper Cottage is a private home and small compared to the manors and castles that had already been visited. However, it was unbelievably stunning. For some of us it felt like something that we could almost achieve, or strive to with the help of a full time gardener. The owners made it clear that it's a work in progress but with multiple beds, swimming pond, functioning railroad, meadow, etc. we sensed a near finished work.

Part of the beauty was the rolling hills behind the property that gave it a never ending feel.

Another sighting of Stonehenge gave us a thrill before our final stop of the day at Stourhead House and Garden. It's a 300 year old landscape garden inspired by painted masterpieces of times gone by and was the vision of Henry Hoare II. Trees, temples and architecture are arranged around a lake inviting exploration, discovery, surprise and inspiration.



Fundraising—Chelsea Flower Show

Flowers, Flowers and more Flowers



Stourhead House and Garden

Our final day took us first to RHS Garden Wisley where you can witness world-class horticulture that dates back to 1878. It began as an experimental garden and its focus is inspirational gardening, rather than a museum of plants and conservation. In addition to outstanding horticultural displays and advice service, a world-class scientific research team ensures everything is to the highest standards. Must visits include the Laboratory, Mixed Borders, Battleston Hill, Rose Garden, Oakwood, Rock Garden, and the Glass House. We saw so many interesting plants at this location.



The last stop of our fabulous trip was Windsor. Before a farewell dinner, we had time to walk around the castle and do some last minute shopping. What a great ending to a first class excursion. I think this write-up does justice to our British journey but I will say the pictures barely capture all of the glory.

Jana Wagner
VP Ways & Means

Fundraising—Chelsea Flower Show

Flowers, Flowers and more Flowers



Outing to Windsor on the final day.



Message from The President

Helen Wilson, VP Programs brought in many fascinating speakers covering various interesting and unusual topics to broaden our vision of ourselves as gardeners and learn about the creative and responsible gardening. She lined up many memorable speakers, too many to list, who answered members' questions about gardening and related plant management.



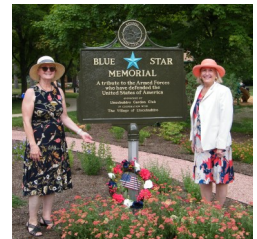
Lorrie Hardy, VP Allocations was so resourceful and creative in reaching out to several new groups inviting them to apply for LGC grants and putting the time and effort to discuss applications with the board to reach consensus on candidate selection. Her quality proposals were successful in giving funds to groups that fulfil our Mission Statement.

Trish Hughes, Recording Secretary, General Meetings and Nancy Romanchek, Recording Secretary, Board Meetings, both recorded our meetings and motions keeping our history recorded accurately. I can't thank them enough for the magnificent job they did.

Meg Zimmermann, Treasurer/Assistant Secretary kept an accurate account of our funds and helped LGC increase funds using interest bearing CDs. Another enabler to smooth out our operations was setting up Zelle so members can send in their dues and Garden Walk ticket fees reducing unnecessary handling fees.

I'd also like to highlight the good work done by our outstanding Standing Committees and the variety of ways they reach the LGC members and our community with LGC activities.

Mary Ainger and Jan Stefans, Community Beautification co-chairs leveraged their strong connection to the Village Staff and the Community to establish the attractive, award winning Blue Star Memorial Garden and the two instructional Monarch Waystations which have significantly enhanced the aesthetic appeal of this important focal area of our village. I predict we'll see additional aesthetically pleasing gardens in the future that will bring added community awareness to LGC.



I want to also take this opportunity to highlight the work of our various standing committees. Our Community Outreach committees, Depke (Ann Maine and Jan Stefans), Riverside Foundation (Kathleen Abdo and Meg Zimmermann), Pollinator (Marj Lundy), Social Media (Lorrie Hardy), Women's Residential Services are programs where members teach groups about gardening, pollinators and inform the public of LGC activities and our Mission. Please support these programs by volunteering not only is it rewarding but "many hands make light work". You make friends working in small groups and helping others.

Other Standing Committees support the work of LGC as well. GCI Liason (Nancy Slatin) participates with GCI Board and activities and keeps us informed of planned events and ways to get connected with a broader community. Historian (Barb Gilman) archives all of our minutes, awards and researches LGC history. Barb's articles highlight our past projects in the community and are fascinating to read. Hospitality committee members (Susan Bassett, Trudy Bettiker, Jane Bisk, Nancy Dini, Sandy Kalas) are doing a great job in their new position. This position requires significant coordination with many members throughout the year. I hear many compliments from members on the continental breakfast offerings at every monthly meeting.

Membership (Lori Hartnett and Jan Shapiro) keep our roster updated for the website and for GCI so we can all receive LGC communications and Garden Glories. This is especially important for LGC's new members so they can be included in activities and volunteer opportunities.

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Message from The President

LGC's award winning Newsletter, put together by Nancy Slatin, is a professional looking publication with educational and interesting articles provided by members, LGC activities, volunteer opportunities and GCI and District IX news. Parliamentarian (Helen Wilson) keeps order during spritely conversations and keeps everyone following Robert's Rules. Plant Education (Kay Siess) engages us at every meeting with historical and informative facts about a variety of topics including plants and garden concerns.

Lastly, our award winning Yearbook (Meg Zimmermann) this mighty publication contains so much information about LGC. If you need to know anything about LGC look in the Yearbook and you will find it, volunteer opportunities – Standing Committees, Allocations, Meeting Dates and Topics, By Laws, Standing Rules and of course members information.

I thank everyone for your help and support throughout these past few years. Working with you all has been a truly rewarding experience and an opportunity for personal growth for me. I appreciate how much time and effort you put into making our club work smoothly and fulfill its mission.

I'm looking forward to the June Picnic, always a wonderful opportunity to socialize and enjoy the tradition of the installation of officers.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer,

Kathleen Abdo



Community Involvement

Women's Residential Services

On Thursday, May 29th Mary Ainger, Laura Chilis, Judy Jenner, Kay Siess and Jan Stefans met with the residents at the Women's Residential Services to put in their garden.

In an hour with the residents we planted a vegetable garden, eight planters with annuals and perennials, dug in a climbing rose along the fence and planted marigolds, zinnias and sunflowers seeds for the ladies to tend throughout the summer.

Look closely.....one of the ladies was THRILLED to find a dragonfly!

Jan



Community Involvement

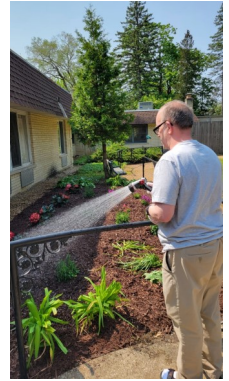
Planting Annuals at the Riverside Foundation

Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped plant and water with the RF Garden Club on June 1. Every one was busy planting annuals and vegetables with the clients. The RF clients and the staff will make sure that all of the plants and planters are watered, that's the everyone's favorite activity.

A special acknowledgement of the LGC members that helped today: Mary Ainger, Dawn and Paul Fleischman, Ann Garrison, Lorrie Hardy, Nancy and Alan Slatin.

Meg helped plan and shop for the plants and arranged for beautiful weather. Well done, it was a gorgeous day to plant with the RF Clients. It was a very rewarding to work together.

Gratefully,
Kathleen Abdo and Meg Zimmermann



LGC Garden Walk

The date of our annual Garden Walk, July 19, 2025, is soon approaching! As mentioned in last month's Flower Press, we will be handling ticket sales differently than in 2024.

At the June membership meeting and luncheon, each LGC member will receive four numbered tickets to be sold. In addition, Jan Stefans will distribute a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer on the day of the garden walk. As you may know, money raised from the Garden Walk funds grants to service organizations in Lincolnshire and Lake County. Our success depends upon your participation in this community event.

Tickets are available on our website for \$20 in advance, or may be bought for \$25 on the day of the walk at Spring Lake Park, 49 Oxford Drive, Lincolnshire between 10 am and 2:30 pm. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbors to attend our Garden Walk and discover ways to enhance their gardens.



Lombard Garden Club Lilac Sale



On Thursday, May 8th, I attended the Lombard Garden Club's Annual Lilac Sale. The Lombard Garden Club has been selling Lilacs for more than half a century. Their sale takes place next to Lilacia Park, a park full of many unique lilac bushes. The hours of the sale were from 12 noon till 7 pm.

I arrived in line at approximately 11:40 am and was about #60 in line. They suggested bringing a wheel barrel or trolley to make transport easy. I was able to secure the lilacs I desired: **Saugeana**, a magenta purple cultivar which will grow 10-12' tall with a 5'10" spread; and **'Andeken an Ludwig Spaeth'**, a violet-purple cultivar which will also grow to 10-12' height with a 6-8' spread.

The Club sold 420 lilac bushes (18 cultivars) in just 90 minutes. I found the planting suggestions interesting. They recommend planting the lilac in its pot, in the ground, until fall or even next spring, to give the shrub time to develop stronger roots. These bushes should be at full height within three years.

GCI 2025 Summer Meeting



The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. 2025 Summer Meeting Hosted by District I

Monday, July 21, 2025, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden
2715 South Main Street, Rockford, IL 61102

Presentation by Corrinne Sosso, Education Director at Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful



KLEHM ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN is one of Rockford, Illinois' top outdoor family-friendly destinations. There's something for everyone. With 155 acres of woodlands and botanical gardens that feature a children's garden, observation tower, garden pavilion for hosting weddings and social functions, 1.4 miles of paved paths, 3 miles of wooded trails, and specialty gardens which provide a showcase for themed plantings of ornamental shrubs and trees as well as annual and perennial plants and much more!

Photo credit: <https://www.facebook.com/KlehmArboretum>



CORINNE SOSSO, the education director at Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful in Rockford, Illinois acts as the public liaison and cheerleader for recycling and litter prevention. Corinne imparts information and gives presentations at schools, corporations, organizations, and community functions. With a dozen years as a classroom science teacher and more than three decades of informal hands-on science education in children's museums and science centers, Corinne uses her knowledge and skills to promote environmental stewardship across the region. Her energy and enthusiasm have earned her monthly recurring appearances on local morning TV news and radio shows where she entertains and informs.



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Hosted by District I

Monday, July 21, 2025, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden

2715 South Main Street, Rockford, IL 61102

Monday, July 21, 2025

- 8:30 am - 11:00 am Registration
 Meet & Greet
 Raffle baskets on display throughout for your perusal
- 9:00 and 11:00 am Docent led garden tours of Klehm Arboretum
 Or tour on your own at your leisure
- 11:00am - 12:00pm GCI business meeting and award presentation
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm Buffet lunch and raffles
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Program: **Think Green, Live Clean** by Corinne Sosso



REGISTRATION FORM

Early bird registration ends June 12, 2025

Registration deadline is July 12, 2025

Morning beverages and treats, garden tours, buffet lunch, meeting, and speaker

April - June 12	\$55.00
June 13 - July 12	\$60.00
Amount Paid	_____

Tour - Please select one
(accessibility tours are available)

- ☐ 9:00 - 10:00 am tour
☐ 10:00 - 11:00 am tour

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____
Club _____ District _____
Dietary Restrictions _____

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ Club Member ☐ Non-member Guest ☐ Club President ☐ District Director ☐ GCI Board of Directors

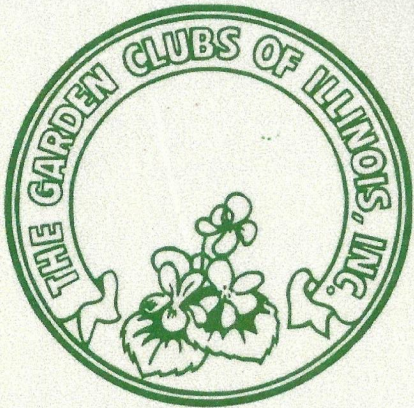
Make checks payable to **The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.**
send form and payment to **Debbie Nagy 1318 Eustace Drive, Dixon, IL 61021**
Have a question? debnagy55@gmail.com

GCI News

To access the Members Only Page
on the GCI Website



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



**The Garden Clubs
of Illinois, Inc**

**2025 Summer
Meeting**

**Hosted by
District 1**

**Mon. July 21st
8:30am - 2pm**

**Klehm Arboretum
& Botanic Garden**

**2715 S Main St,
Rockford, IL 61102**

LGC Board of Directors

2024-2025

Officers

President	Kathleen Abdo
VP Ways & Means	Jana Wagner
VP Programs	Helen Wilson
VP Allocations	Lorrie Hardy
Recording Secretary—General Meetings	Trish Hughes
Recording Secretary—Board Meetings	Nancy Romanchek
Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Slatin
Treasurer/Asst. Secretary	Meg Zimmermann

Standing Committees

Community Beautification: Mary Ainger, Alan Slatin, 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: Susan Bassett, Trudy Bettiker, Jane Bisk, Nancy Dini, Sandy Kalas
Membership: Lori Hartnett, Jan Shapiro
Newsletter: Nancy Slatin
Parliamentarian: Helen Wilson
Plant Education: Kay Siess
Pollinator: Laura Chilis, Marj Lundy
Social Media: Lorrie Hardy
Web Site: Lorrie Hardy
Weed and Wine: Jan Stefans
Women's Residential Services:
Yearbook: Meg Zimmermann

Social Media

Website: <https://lincolnshiregardenclub.com>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LincolnshireGardenClub>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lincolnshiregardenclub/?hl=en>

~ Our Mission Statement ~

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.