



THE GARDEN DIRT

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Website: Antiochgardenclub.org

Facebook: [Antioch Garden Club-Antioch IL](https://www.facebook.com/AntiochGardenClub-AntiochIL)



President's Column

WHOOSH! March into Spring 2026! By the time you read this, we will have awakened the garden beds! Our Horticulture Committee

Chair George W. is doing a really wonderful job organizing the committee and getting us gardeners on a nice schedule. The next Horticulture committee meeting is May 13 at 12 p.m. at the library. All are welcome!

We had a great board meeting with 10 members in attendance. Growing, growing! Lots of ideas were tossed about. We are continually working on keeping the club "fresh."

Hard to believe, but it's time to work on the next yearbook. I will ask that each chair provide a little ditty, sent to Trina J. We ARE going to have it all together this year! Trina is asking us for pictures to be considered for the upcoming book. And, if you want a fresher pic of yourself in the directory, please let her know.

—See *President's Column*, cont. on page 5

Birthdays:

4/8—Viki Chapman

4/20—Joyce Kufalk

April Program: "What is All the Buzz About Bees" by Karen Thomson. Learn about bee-friendly plants, interesting facts about honey bees, how a hive works and products from the hive. She'll also talk about harvesting and cooking with honey.

April Hospitality: Trina Jaworek, lead hostess, with Betty Sprovieri, Joan Vitello and Chris Priller.

April & May Meetings—Location change! Apologies—last minute change for the April meeting! It will be in the lower level of the Parks & Rec Bldg., (same as December), 806 Holbek Dr. The May meeting was already moved to same location.

CALENDAR

April 11—General Mtg., 1 p.m., **Antioch Parks & Rec., 806 Holbek Dr.**, door opens 12:30 p.m.

April 22—Board Meeting, 6 p.m., **Antioch Village Center**

April 24—Arbor Day tree planting, 1 p.m., **Mini Park, Main St., downtown Antioch**

May 9—General Mtg., 1 p.m., **Antioch Parks & Rec., 806 Holbek Dr.**, 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, Co-Vice Presidents-Susan Ullrich & Betty Sprovieri, Secretary-Chris Priller, Treasurer-Jennifer Wittenberg, *The Garden Dirt* is published electronically nine times a year, emailed to members and posted online: <https://antiochgardenclub.org/>

AGC Plant Sale is May 16

Antioch Garden Club's Plant/Perennial/Bake Sale is on from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 16 at the Williams Park pavilion, 741 Main St in Antioch (behind the library). We need donations from all members in the form of annuals, perennials, herbs, indoor houseplants, preserves, books, garden-related items, and volunteer time.

Let me know what you're bringing, so I can make-up colorful plant ID signs. At the April meeting, I'll have pots, trays and Craft Stix 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 those perennial beds of yours in need of thinning. Try to get plants potted by May, so they can be established and fill-out their containers.

On Saturday, we need help setting up, starting at 8 a.m. Deliver plants at the north side of the pavilion, where you'll park your vehicle. 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% of his profits that day. Please support him, by buying local, and getting the advantage of the kickback to our club.

When you help, you'll pick-up new horticulture info and have fun at the same time! Of course, you'll be able to shop/set aside plants for yourself. We trust our members to pay after the initial buyers' rush subsides.


Mark your calendars and tell your friends about our sale. There's loads of competition in May for plant sale buying. We know 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 me: Cindy Cartner, chrysaliscindy@aol.com, 224-406-6615


"April Hath Put A Spirit Of Youth In Everything"

William Shakespeare

Antioch Garden Club
Perennial Plant Sale
SATURDAY MAY 16 10:00AM-1:00PM



In WILLIAMS PARK PAVILION
741 MAIN STREET ANTIOCH RAIN OR SHINE
~Perennials~Annuals~Trees~
Proceeds go towards Antioch Community. Information: antiochgardenclub.org or 847-395-8902



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AGC General Meeting Minutes March 14, 2026



WELCOME: Holly Swehla, President

CALL TO ORDER: 1:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Garden Club of Illinois Pledge were recited. Meeting was paused for program *Rainscaping, How to Direct and Manage Water Flow in a Yard* by Jill Bonucci, Master Gardener. Holly thanked Jill for this very informative program. Jill will be sending links to informational sites to be distributed to club members.

Secretary's Report: Chris P. reported the February 14 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved by President Holly and are published in the March issue of *The Garden Dirt*. Having no corrections they will be filed.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer W. reported the January balance sheet is published in the current issue of *The Garden Dirt*. Ending balance of January 31, 2026 is \$6,205.38. The report has been filed for audit. Jennifer is also collecting membership dues. Dues deadline is April 1.

Correspondence: Current mail included two State Farm Insurance bills. One of these went to the Methodist Church. Jennifer W. will contact State Farm to correct the address to our P.O. Box. A Heartland Bank Scholarship Fund Statement came in and was also forwarded to Jennifer. One scholarship application was received and forwarded to Jennifer W. Other mail included the Antioch Public Library *Latest Chapter* newsletter.

Standing Committee Reports

Audit: Dee O. reported a procedures sheet has been created by Norma L. and given to Holly S.

Bylaws: Judy C. reported there will be a Bylaws meeting on March 24.

Historian: Joyce K. Nothing to report. Chris P. gave Joyce the Thank You letter, photos, and progress report received from last year's scholarship winner, Javi Sanchez. These will be filed in the club's history book.

Horticulture: George W. reminded all members to sign up for garden maintenance. Planting a birch tree is a go. The village and J.U.L.I.E. cleared the planting area. The committee is working with Jane B. for an Arbor Day planting. **Key Dates:** March 28, Spring Clean-Up, all-member event, start time is 10 a.m. May 30, Spring Planting, all-member event. March 18, Horticulture Committee Meeting, 11 a.m., at Antioch Public Library.

Hospitality: Holly S. thanked this month's hosts/hostesses for the delicious goodies provided. Thank you George W., Jayna L., Pat H., & Kevin M.!

Membership: Nancy Z. inducted four new members. Welcome to Tom Bossier, Marilyn Hall, Myrta Tiernan, and June Miller. Jennifer W. reported 17 members paid their dues today. Carol Z. reported 27 members and one guest speaker were present today.

Nominating: Jane B. is working on this. The Executive Board will continue for another term.

—Minutes, continued on page 6

February AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Jennifer Wittenberg, Treasurer

February 28th 2026

Disbursements Cleared				
Check #	Paid to	Committee		
2/3/2026	1341 George Weckbacher	Horticulture committee dirt, bulbs	21.64	
2/11/2026	1342 Antioch Chamber	general fund 2026 dues	65	
2/14/2026	1343 June Miller	general fund december planters decorations	90.53	
2/14/2026	1344 Cindy Cartner	plant sale printing	40	
2/14/2026	1345 Nancy Colby	general fund luncheon basket District 9	110	
2/14/2026	1347 Joyce Kulfalk	Historian	17.8	
2/14/2026	1348 Mel Zeloudek	Programs February meeting	225	
			total	569.97
Deposits		From		
2/4/2026		luncheon money	300	
2/17/2026		luncheon money	60	
2/17/2026		sweatshirts	30	
2/17/2026		Raffle February meeting	125	
2/17/2026		dues 12 members	350	
			Total	\$ 865.00
ending bank	balance 2/28/2026			\$ 6,500.41
Disbursements Outstanding				
2/14/2026	1346 Dee Obrechta	membership stamps	10.80	
2/17/2026	1349 Garden Clubs of Illinois	District 1X luncheon	420.00	
			Total	\$ 430.80
Ending Book	balance 2/28/2026		Total	\$ 6,069.61

News briefs

- ◇ **Arbor Day Planting** —"The Antioch Garden Club will celebrate Arbor Day with a White Birch tree planting at the Mini Park garden in Antioch. ALL members are invited to attend the club's annual Arbor Day Event, at **1 p.m., April 24!**
- ◇ **Volunteer Hours:** Remember to track hours you volunteer to the club and report them to Donna Rieter, jdrieter@sbcglobal.net. The hours are important because they represent the value the club adds to the community.
- ◇ **Calling all photographers!** Nancy Colby would like to swap out the cover photo on the club's Facebook page every month. Send photos to her at petart4U2@gmail.com.



Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby, Publicity

Jane Buck is honored

The District IX Annual Award Luncheon was March 10. Awards were presented to various garden clubs for outstanding achievement. Sadly, Antioch did not win an award this year. We won two last year, so next year we can do it again! One award was given to AGC member Jane Buck for her contribution to, and work with, the Awards Committee. Jane has experience in garden clubs in a wide variety of positions. Her knowledge and experience were recognized at the luncheon. Thank you, Jane, for sharing your vast experience and knowledge in all things gardening with Antioch! We are honored to have you!



Monarch Committee Update by Barb Gollwitzer, Chair

Monarch Waystation/Antioch Township Center Property: I swung by today while I was out; plants are starting to come up. The township did an excellent job putting down a barrier. I did not see any weeds coming up! I will monitor this regularly to stay on top of any invasive weeds. Our committee will be planning a garden party when the garden is at its peak, I look forward to that as I hope club members will also. It is located on the south end of the parking lot between two trees. It is approximately 40 feet wide and 10-12 feet deep.



For the Antioch Police Station project, approximately \$1,500 was budgeted. We are waiting on a quote on the purchase of trees. Once the quote is in, we will move on with the Antioch Public Library Pollinator/Butterfly Garden. Devin Wood, Adult Services at APLD, will spearhead this project. We've committed \$300 to \$500 to the project. The amount depends on what is spent at the police station.

Devin, a master gardener, is willing to transplant perennials from her property. I plan to donate some from my yard. Once she has a layout, then I would like to see if any members would like to donate plants from their yards. We currently have \$1991.74 remaining. If the plants/trees purchased for the police station come in at \$1,500, with \$150 for signage, we should have a surplus of \$300 minimum.

President's Column *(continued from p. 1)*

We are now up to 44 members! It's quite exciting. There are still gardeners we are not reaching. Please let me know if you have ideas on how we can promote our club. We will be attending the farmers' markets in June, and we will be invited to a night at the "It's Thursday" concerts in town.

There is still time to choose how you want to share your talents with the club. Jane Buck, nominating, is doing "ok" with canvassing members for the tasks at hand. Many hands make light work.



"Bloom where you are planted." Yours Truly, **Holly Swehla, President**

– **March Minutes**, *continued from p. 3*

Thank you Holly S., Betty S., Chris P., and Jennifer W. Cris Crego has agreed to chair Ways and Means. Other positions will be announced in April, voted on in May, and sworn in at the June meeting.

Philanthropy/Arbor Day: Jane B. is working on the Arbor Day Planting. A portion of the money will come from the Monarch Initiative budget.

Programs: Betty S. reported all are set up at present.

Publicity: Holly S. and Nancy C. represented the club at the Seed Expo. Nancy reported 2,250 gardeners passed our table. We have a list of interested people. Seven club members attended the Annual GCI Meeting & Luncheon on March 10, where Jane B. received an award and thanks for her work on the GCI Awards Committee. Congratulations Jane!

Scholarship: Jennifer W. reported we have two scholarship applications. She will be contacting schools and reminding them to publicize this to their students.

Newsletter: Jayna L. reported *The Garden Dirt* was emailed last week. **Deadline** for next month's articles is **April 25**.

Website: Stacy V. and Lana S. updated this last week.

Yearbook: Trina J. is actively working on this.

Facebook: Nancy C. and Holly S. reported we have 552 followers.

Special Projects Reports

Dorissss: Needs some post Winter clean-up. Mary Y. will work on this at Clean-Up Day.

Monarch Initiative: Barb G. sent in a report. Antioch Township Waystation is coming up. Barb will monitor this area and mulch the area to keep the weeds down. The committee is planning a garden party there once the garden is at peak. The committee is requesting an update from Holly regarding the quotes and purchase of trees for the Antioch Police Station. Approximately \$1,500 has been budgeted for this project. Antioch Public Library Pollinator/ Butterfly Garden will be moving forward soon. Devin Wood of APLD will spearhead the project. The committee has committed \$300 - \$500 toward the project, depending on the cost of Antioch Police Department trees.



Plant Sale: Cindy C. is working on this. **May 16, 8 a.m. is set-up time.** There are still some volunteer positions available. Nancy C. will make arrangements for lunch for the workers. If you can help out, please contact Cindy.

—Minutes, continued on page 7

–*March Minutes* continued from p. 6

Old Business: We continue to collect *Socks for Souls* and toiletries for Open Arms Mission.

New Business: Happy Birthday to our members born in March: Cris C., Joan V., and Chris P.

Announcements: There are some brochures from the GCI Annual Meeting at the membership table. There are some garden books & magazines at the raffle table. There are also brochures from today's speaker available.

-Holly suggested Midwest Organics as a possible field trip. The problem with trips is transportation.

- Barb G. sent in a report that she gave a short talk on the history of Antioch Garden Club and our downtown gardens at the Antioch Women's Club this month. She also passed out flyers about the club and plant sale.

Special Request: Chris P. will not be at the June Meeting. She needs a volunteer to take minutes.

Raffle Proceeds: \$80. **Meeting adjourned:** 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Priller, Secretary

Horticulture Committee Report by George Weckbacher

The AGC Gardens clean-up was a great success due to the members who came out and helped! THANK YOU!

The day was perfect for garden work. It was a little chilly at the start, but the sun was out and the wind was calm. All five gardens were cleaned, and they look great.

The Mini Park garden was cleaned of debris (15 bags). The garden was edged, and the area for the new Arbor Day tree was prepped by removing the plants into pots to be sold at the upcoming plant sale.

The Blue Star Memorial, Berm, Seven Sons, and Brad Ispen Gardens were cleaned up, and we had six bags of debris from your efforts.

Members were able to help the AGC Plant Sale by potting up purple allium, white peony, as well as white and purple irises to sell at the plant sale. Last fall, the club members also potted up white hydrangeas, red columbine, hosta, Russian sage, and variegated wintercreeper for this year's plant sale.

Special thanks go to Carol S. from the Antioch Fine Arts Center for supplying a comfort station.

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!



THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, IL 60002

