



# THE GARDEN DIRT

Find out how to join and see more stories, photos, past newsletters, and much more on our website:

<http://www.antiochgardenclub.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/antioch.gardenclub>



## Guest Column by Judy Caldwell

As we enter a “cocooning” state of existence here in the Midwest, I’d like to share a “good read.” The name of the book is “Terrain.”

It presents wonderful photos and how-to-do’s for winter dreaming. Come to find out, it is a store/nursery/gardens near Philadelphia (road trip!). It’s in the same neighborhood as famous Winterthur, Chanticleer and Longwood Gardens, one more place on my “bucket list.”

I’m encouraging our membership to live up to our motto and help with the effort to be more green as an organization.

I’m so proud of our new initiative to “reduce, reuse & recycle.”

It’s a work in progress so be patient and proactive in achieving a zero-waste club.

Lana Svitak will be December’s meeting leader, so let her know if there is anything to be included on the agenda.

Stay warm!

*Judy Caldwell*

## December & January Birthdays:

Mary Spliedt—Dec. 6

Betty Sprovieri—Dec. 6

Holly Markwart Swehla—Dec. 25

Barbara Gollwitzer—Jan. 13

Diana Fox—Jan. 14

Joanne Dugenske—Jan. 23

## December Program

**Holiday Party**—There will be a short business meeting followed by a party to celebrate the season. Look forward to tasty appetizers and some surprises.

## Hospitality & Raffle

Barb Gollwitzer, hostess; Lana Svitak, Cynthia Stepanek, Betty Sprovieri are on hostess committee.

## CALENDAR

Dec. 1—General Meeting, 3-5 p.m., Methodist Church

Jan. 25—Board Meeting, 1-3 p.m., Café Book

Feb. 15—Board Meeting, 1-3 p.m., Café Book

March 8—General Meeting, 7 p.m.

Antioch Garden Club is a member of Garden Club of Illinois, Inc.; Central Region Garden Club, District IX & National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Officers: President-Vacant, Vice President-Linda Fox, Secretary-Cheryl Hoke, Treasurer-Laura Paukner

Published electronically nine times a year. *The Dirt* is emailed to members and posted online at: [antiochgardenclub.org](http://antiochgardenclub.org).

M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
N  
E  
W  
S

# News Briefs



- ⇒ **We need nominees** for president, vice president, treasurer and membership for next year. Please consider stepping up.
- ⇒ **Treasurer's Report** will be available at the December general membership meeting.
- ⇒ **Don't forget**, the December and March 2020 regular meetings will both be on SUNDAY, and the January and February board meetings will both be on SATURDAY. Check your yearbook or the club website for the complete meeting schedule.
- ⇒ **We'll start up 2020** with our March general membership meeting, 3-5 p.m., Sunday, March 8, first day of Daylight Savings. The assigned leader will be Betty Collins. The program will be "Butterfly Gardening," presented by member Holly Markwart Swehla.



## December & January Gardening Checklist

### Outdoors:

- ◇ Wait until the ground freezes to mulch.
- ◇ Do light pruning of deciduous woody plants; save heavy pruning for mid- to late-winter.
- ◇ Protect susceptible woody plants with wire mesh or chicken wire collars.
- ◇ Place protective cones over roses or make cages from chicken wire and fill with leaves or straw. This applies to hybrid teas, floribundas, and grandifloras.
- ◇ Climbers should be laid down and covered with a layer of mulch.

### Indoors:

- ◇ Give poinsettias bright not direct light; avoid sudden temperature changes.
- ◇ Reduce amount of water and fertilizer given to most indoor plants.
- ◇ Place blooming plants in cool sunny window for maximum blooms; moist not soggy.
- ◇ Place Christmas cactus and African violets in warm sunny windows to promote color.
- ◇ Check houseplant leaves for brown, dry edges. This indicates too little relative humidity in the house. Increase humidity by running a humidifier, grouping plants together or using pebble trays.
- ◇ Replenish water as needed. Move plants away from heating vents or closely watch for dryness.
- ◇ Reflect and/or record garden successes and failures for next year's planning.



## Antioch Garden Club General Meeting Minutes Nov. 4, 2019

**WELCOME:** Judy Caldwell, Acting President

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND GARDEN CLUB PLEDGE**

**Secretary's Report:** October minutes were published in our newsletter, *The Garden Dirt*. There were no corrections or additions. Minutes will be filed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Laura Paukner distributed copies of the October Treasurer's Report. There were no corrections or additions.

**Correspondence:** We received a check for \$100 as a contribution from the Antioch Woman's Club in appreciation of our work in the gardens of Antioch. Cheryl will send a thank you note.

### Committee Reports:

**Audit:** No report

**Bylaws:** No report

**Historian:** Any news articles please give to Joyce Kufalk.

**Horticulture:** Fifteen members showed up for the fall clean-up. A check for \$68 was sent in for the Penny Pines contribution for the Shawnee National Forest. A new wreath was put at the Blue Star Memorial for Veteran's Day.

**Hospitality:** Tonight's hostesses were Carolyn Yoakem, Joyce Kufalk and Nancy Bilsborrow. Carol Sackschewsky and Chong also contributed. December hostesses will be Barb Gollwitzer, Lana Svitak and Betty Sprovieri.

**Membership:** Twenty-five members were present as well as we welcomed three guests.

**Nominating:** No report

**Philanthropy:** No report

**Programs:** Holly presented a program tonight on collecting and storing seeds. December's meeting will be held on December 1 at 3 p.m. We will have a holiday party to celebrate the season.

**Publicity:** No report

**Newsletter:** Deadline for November's Dirt is November 15.

**Website:** Chong thanked those who contributed pictures of their home gardens.

**Yearbook:** There was a change noted on page 10 for wreath decorating. We will meet at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. on November 23.

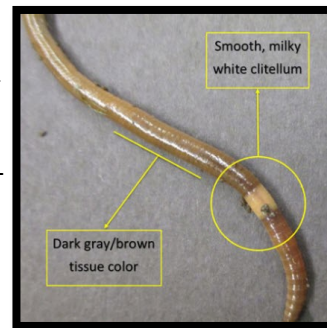
**Scholarship:** Deadline for applications is April 30, 2020.



*Continued on page 5*

# Hort. Report: Jumping Worms are bad news

They have been here in the country since the mid-nineteenth century. They are now found throughout the Midwest. They look similar to the worms we are familiar with, with the exception of the band. Jumping worms have a white band completely encircling their body. Unlike earthworms, these stay on top of the soil, or if there is a layer of compost, that's where you will find them. The bad news is that they release their castings very rapidly, and the nutrients do not stay around very long. They rob the soil of the nutrients, allowing invasive plants to sneak in! They are tiny in early spring and are thriving in late summer. Plants (perennials) at that time in the season are working on storing nutrients for the winter and are not interested in being fertilized. Over-wintering comes in the form of cocoons. Heat kills the embryos, so it's best to get your compost pile to at least 104 degrees, for a minimum of three days.



Stay tuned for info on determining if you have them, and tips on how to get rid of them!

Happy Gardening!

-Holly

## Club decorates wreaths, swags for Antioch locations



The holiday spirit was in the air as members gathered to decorate wreaths. Friends, a new member, and a husband helped. Thanks to all!



Wreath-decorating was great fun again this year. Thank you Committee Chair Carol Sackschewsky (and Roy!), for organizing the event, and the Senior Center for the space. Carol put her experience as an art teacher to good use, making it easy for members to let their creative juices flow. Thanks to those who delivered, and in some cases hung, the wreaths and swags around town. Each year, this project gets bigger and better! New this year, the club provided glue guns and other tools. Members donated ornaments and ribbons. Remember after holiday cleanup to put aside some ornaments to donate next year!

Minutes cont. from page 3

### Special Projects:

**Monarch Butterfly:** Last Tuesday, two township employees moved the Monarch Way Station from the Antioch Township Center to Osmond Park, due to construction of an Athletic Field House to be used by Antioch and Lakes High Schools. Signs will be installed acknowledging our club.

**Wreath Decoration:** Please bring any ribbon or ornaments to share.

**Ways & Means:** Plant sale will be May 16, 2020.

**Old Business:** We will be the grand marshal for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Holly is looking for anyone who has a truck we can use. Also, anyone willing to help is encouraged to step up.

**New Business:** The next Board meeting and December general meeting will be led by Lana.

**Raffle** was held and meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Hoke, Secretary

### November Meeting Snapshots (See more at: <http://www.antiochgardenclub.org/agc-news.html>)



The November program was "Collecting and Storing Seeds", presented by member Holly Markwart Swehla, an avid seed collector. Members were also encouraged to bring their own seeds to exchange.



## **THE GARDEN DIRT**

### **ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB**

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, Il 60002



# **December**