



THE GARDEN DIRT

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Guest Column

As we begin our 25th year as the Antioch Garden Club, we will be running columns or short stories here in *The Garden Dirt* sharing the history of our club. Following is what Joanne Dugenske and Nancy Zitkus recollect about the first meeting of our club.

In 1995, Suzi Hetzel, a member of the United Methodist Church of Antioch, invited Nancy, Joanne and others to join together and form the Antioch Garden Club. Their motivating factor being that *God Almighty first planted a garden; and, indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures.* **Sir Francis Bacon**, "Essays of Gardens."

The first meeting had 16 people in attendance. It was held at the Antioch Village Hall. At a later date, meetings were held at the United Methodist Church, and refreshments were served.

Nancy, namesake of our educational scholarship, wanted to learn more about gardening. She was born and raised on their family farm. Her Mom had a huge vegetable garden and beautiful flowers.

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Aug./Sept. Birthdays:

8/27 — Jayna Legg

9/7 — Carol Sackschewsky

9/12 — Carolyn Yoakem

9/17 — Lana Svitak

9/19 — Norma Lucansky

9/22 — Laura Paukner

Sept. Fall Potluck:

Door opens at 6 p.m. to accommodate a tour of village gardens and eat early.

"Photography in the Garden" will be presented by past member/AGC president Meredith Schnelle, an artist passionate about the natural world. Native plants and animals are her subjects. Raising awareness of ecological concerns is also a passion.

Hospitality & Raffle:

Linda Fox is hostess, with Holly Markwart Swehla, Jackie Horneck, Karen Coulter .

CALENDAR

Sept. 9 — General Meeting 7 p.m., Methodist Church, doors open 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 18 — Board Meeting 6:30 p.m., Café Book

Oct. 7 — General Meeting 7 p.m., Methodist Church

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

The Garden Dirt is published electronically nine times a year, emailed to members and posted online at: antiochgardenclub.org.

MEMBERS

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The flowers her mother grew were many of the common ones; now it has really changed.

According to Nancy, so many of the original members have either passed away or moved away. If you are still in touch with a former member, please extend an invitation to them to share with us in celebrating our 25th year of the Antioch Garden Club.

-Barb Gollwitzer

Fall Gardening: How to Heel

No, I don't mean "bow-wow" heel, but how to heel-in plants, trees, and canes. This method can be used to over-winter your divided perennials. It will also give the root ball a longer period to establish and strengthen itself.

A proper site used to store your horticulture is essential. You'll need an area that won't be disturbed until spring, when you'll lift be lifting out the plants. If this area is next to a building, the radiant heat projected will give the plants additional protection.



For PERENNIALS:

- * Place plant into pot with adequate drainage and room for root growth, water thoroughly.
- * Sink pot to top of soil line in your garden site to over-winter. Plants can be left with foliage on or removed. If removed, leave a bit of the stem so you can find it next spring. Water thoroughly.
- * Cover with at least 4" of thick leaf mulch, lawn clippings, etc.

For TREES and CANES: These can be planted in pots, as above, or placed in a trench.

- * Soak horticulture in water to hydrate for ½ hour.
- * Dig a V-shaped trench wide/deep enough for the root ball.
- * Lay horticulture at an angle into trench, roots covered completely.
- * Water trench thoroughly and cover with thick layer of soil.
- * Cover with at least 4" of thick mulch.

It's better to pot-up anything before overwintering. The plants are easier to dig out in spring and they don't go thru the shock of being transplanted again. These methods will help you get a jump on development of plants you'll be donating to our club's Plant Sale May 16, 2020. YouTube videos and Google searches will make this process more clear.

It's really not such a RUFF project.

- Cindy Cartner

AGC General Meeting Minutes June 3, 2019



President Barb Gollwitzer called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led us in the pledges. Program Chairman Linda Fox introduced Heather Bauspies, Antioch Flower Shop owner, who demonstrated her flower-arranging skills, told us about many different classes, and she donated a bouquet for our raffle.

President Barb paused the meeting for refreshments and brought the meeting back to order.

Correspondence: A Thank You from Dee Obrochta, a Thank You from the St. Peter Council of Catholic Women with a \$50 donation to the club for the program that Holly Swehla gave.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting were published in *The Garden Dirt*. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The report was published in *The Garden Dirt*. Hearing no corrections the report will be filed for audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating:

Election - Cheryl Hoke was nominated to the position of secretary by the board, for the upcoming club year 2019-2021. Jackie Horneck moved that the nomination of Cheryl Hoke be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried. Congratulations Cheryl.

Installation - Jayna Legg installed Cheryl Hoke as the secretary for the club year 2019-2021. Recognition was given to Nancy Zitkus, as outgoing secretary, and Barb Gollwitzer outgoing president.

There is still a need for a president and vice president for next club year.

Conservation/Horticulture: Holly Swehla reported the watering system is up and running for the gardens. She has the sheet for watering and maintenance of the gardens for the summer. There are still spots to be filled out by the members. She suggested the members start with the Blue Star Memorial for maintenance as that needs watering more often then check the other gardens. She reported the Elm Tree in the Mini Park has fallen with the last storm. The village came and cut it up and cleaned the area. This has opened that area to the sun. So some flowers may have to be moved. We welcomed the new Conservation/Horticulture Chairman, Holly Swehla with a "floral crown." The Conservation/Horticulture Committee group also announced that they are going to honor the outgoing Chairman, Karen Coulter, with a Proven Winner 2019 "Firelight Hydrangea" to be planted in the Mini Park of Antioch. Chong Li announced Jim Fay, a new member and a member of the Conservation/Horticulture Committee, has designed and planted, along the entrance to the Antioch United Methodist Church, a "Pollinator Pocket" garden. We can all learn about this adventure. See more info. on our website.

Hospitality: Betty Collins, Chairman, read the Hostess Committee: Betty Collins, Hostess; Dee Obrochta, Mary Spliedt-Dietze and Diana Fox (absent). The sign-up sheet was passed around again as there are still some empty spots.

Membership: Lana Svitak, Chairman, reported 23 members in attendance. She initiated a new member, Betty Sprovieri, and gave her a jar of honey. Welcome Betty.

Programs: Linda Fox, Chairman, has all but one spot to fill the upcoming club year. She will be sending around a form asking for your opinions on the past programs (Yes/No). This will help in getting interesting programs in the years to come.

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Notables *from the editor:*

- ⇒ **WELCOME** to new member Linda Worchel, of Lake Villa. All I know right now is she's a May baby. Look for more about her in the *The Garden Dirt* Oct. issue.
- ⇒ Treasurer's reports will be available at the meeting.
- ⇒ Check it out! The garden party at Antony and John's looks like it was great fun! I'm sorry I missed it (had a wedding). Great photos are posted here: <http://www.antiochgardenclub.org/agc-news.html>



Horticulture Committee Report

We are closing in on the end of the 2019 gardening season. It has been a beautiful season, with the addition of the underground sprinklers! Thanks everyone for your hard work in the gardens! I became the Horticulture Chair on July 1st. I only hope I can do as good a job as Karen Coulter. I have big plans swirling in my head for next year. We are in the running to be the Grand Marshall of the 4th of July parade. That means we would be in front! Stay tuned. The date is Saturday, July 4, 2020. It would be in honor of our 25th anniversary.

— Chairwoman Holly Markwart Swehla

Thank you Karen!

Take a walk through the Mini Park, and you'll see the new Firelight hydrangea, planted in July in honor of outgoing Horticulture Chair Karen Coulter. Karen dedicated 14 years to leading the committee and beautifying the club's downtown gardens!

Nine club members gathered in the park for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Ms. Karen Firelight Hydrangea was dressed festively. A plant sign with "Ms. Karen Fire Hydrangea Proven Winner Plant of the Year 2019" was unveiled.

The plant is happily situated at the northwest part of the Mini Park. It will grow up to 6 feet tall with striking flower heads that will change color from white to pomegranate red over the seasons. It makes a great focal point in the park, and will grow with Karen and AGC members for many years to come.

- This story and more photos appear on the Antioch Garden Club Website



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Publicity:

Newsletter - Jayna Legg, Chairman, would like the articles by the end of July.

Website: Chong Li, Chairman, has updated it with many interesting articles and pictures of our members' gardens.

Yearbook: Chong Li, Chairman, would like input as soon as possible.



Scholarship: Judy Caldwell, Chairman, announced Kyla Knauf as our scholarship winner. She could not be with us as she is still at the University of San Diego. Her agricultural education information will be in our newsletter. Judy will give her award when she returns.

Special Projects:

Monarch Butterfly Initiative: Holly Swehla, Chairman, will be working with Township Supervisor, Tom Shaughnessy for placement of the next butterfly station. No updates.

Ways and Means: Cindy Cartner, Chairman, thanked the club for their outstanding work at the plant sale. Her report will be in the newsletter. Net Income to the Antioch Garden Club - \$4,143.94. After Cindy's report, President Barb presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and informed her of a Lifetime Membership in the National Garden Club from the club.

Arbor Day: President Barb reported the "White Swamp Oak" was planted.

New Business: Without a President or Vice President for our 2019-2021 club year, the members of our board will be conducting the upcoming general and board meetings. If you have input, please contact an officer or a member of the board.

- Nancy Zitkus moved that we send the name of our President Barbara Gollwitzer to the Garden Clubs of Illinois Book of Honor; same was seconded and carried.

Old Business: Linda Fox and Jayna Legg have written a mission statement for our club, it was approved by the board on May 22, 2019.

"To cultivate the knowledge and love of gardening. To plant the seeds of kindness within our members to blossom into lifelong friendships. To promote native landscaping and nurture and protect our environment."

Norma Lucansky moved that we accept this Mission Statement; same was seconded and carried. This will be published in our new Yearbook and in the Garden Dirt.

Pot Party: President Barb had successful pot parties at her house May 11 & 15. Members brought plants, pots and potting soil. We will repeat for the 2020 plant sale, only one day.

Announcements:

May Board Meeting – June 19th at Café Book, 6:30 p.m. All committee members are asked to attend. Any member who would like to be put on the agenda, please contact Barb.

Town & Country Garden Club: Hosting "Hidden Gems" garden walk including five gardens in the Libertyville area on Saturday, June 29, 2019 - \$15.

GCI: Summer Meeting July 15 - \$45. <https://www.gardenclubsof Illinois.org/>

Raffle: Carolyn Yoakum, Chairman, conducted the raffle and \$48.00 was realized. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Zitkus, Secretary

THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

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September