



THE GARDEN DIRT

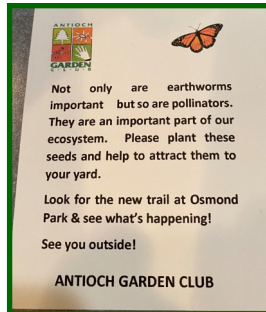
Find out how to join and see more stories, photos, past newsletters, and much more on our website and Facebook page:

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



Co-President's Column

In mid-March of this year, the club received a letter from two teachers at Emmons School, Mrs. Glassman and Mrs. Schwalenberg. They outlined a project their first-graders did during this school year, both in person and over Zoom. The project was to learn how earthworms make the soil healthy and help plants grow. Over 20 of their students sent a handwritten letter to the Antioch Garden Club, outlining why they thought earthworms are beneficial. Many included a drawing of either the earthworm or how it worked. As a result, we gave each student a package of gummy earthworms and a butterfly shaped piece of recycled paper with seeds embedded in it. We included instructions on how to plant the seeds and invited the students to visit our downtown gardens and check out the project for butterflies at Osmond Park. As always, we strive to encourage youngsters to get out and play in the dirt!



-Barb Gollwitzer

Scholarship: Congrats to ACHS Senior Tessa Wolf, a frequent club helper. She will attend University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, to study Computer Science & Crop Science.

AGC Mission Statement

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.

New Meeting Day

On the recommendation of the board, the club voted via email in favor of changing the day the Antioch Garden Club meets to the second Saturday of the month, 1-3 p.m., location TBD. The effective date is TBD as well.

Open Positions

The following positions are open or will be open soon: Co-President, Vice President, Publicity & Scholarship Chairs.

CALENDAR

April 17 — Spring Cleanup, 9 a.m., Mini-Park. Bring gardening tools, trash bags and a smile.

May 15 — Spring Planting, 9 a.m., Mini-Park

June 7 — General Meeting, 7 p.m., location TBD
(Note, we are tentatively planning this meeting on the usual meeting day [1st Monday] and normal time. However, this is tentative.)

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

Officers: Co-Presidents-Barb Gollwitzer & Betty Sprovieri, Vice President-Linda Fox, Secretary-Jayna Legg, Treasurer-Lana Svitak

The Garden Dirt is published electronically nine times a year.

The Garden Dirt is emailed to members and posted online at: antiochgardenclub.org.

2021 Plant/Perennial Sale Cancelled

Unfortunately, the club’s annual plant sale originally scheduled for May 22 will again be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision was made out of an abundance of caution.



While the vaccine is becoming more available, many people have yet to get it, or may have decided not to get vaccinated. Treasurer Lana Svitak has informed us that the club’s finances are in order and can sustain this decision. Because of the pandemic, club expenses have substantially decreased over the past year.

So, take some notes this summer and plan ahead for what you can divide and donate to the 2022 plant sale. And here’s to happy gardening for all in 2021!

- *Antioch Garden Club Board*

Book Donations to Library

Antioch Garden Club has purchased and donated to the Antioch library two books, which are now in circulation:

The first is *Pollinators of Native Plants; Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants,*” by Heather Holm. It is a comprehensive book that profiles more than 65 perennial native plant species of the Midwest, Great Lakes region, Northeast and Southern Canada, plus the pollinators, beneficial insects and flower visitors the plants attract. It is beautifully illustrated with more than 1,600 photos of plants and insects. Readers learn to attract and identify pollinators and beneficial insects as well as customize landscape plantings for a particular type of pollinator with native plants.

The second, *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide,* has won six book awards, including 2018 American Horticultural Society (AHS) Book Award and 2018 Midwest Independent Publishing Association (MIPA) Book Award.

This book is a must-have for anyone interested in plants, pollinators, or nature. It is a resource of interesting facts about native bees and the native plants they visit, and contains stunning photographs. It is presented in an easy-to-read format. “It will open your eyes to the diversity around us, make you look closer at every flower you pass to see what bees are busy visiting, and have you finding room in your garden to add some of the featured plants that are both beautiful and beneficial for pollinators. There is something in this book for everyone ...,” writes Pollination Biologist Victoria MacPhail.

‘It would be hard to imagine a book more chocked full of the information we need to save our native bees. From helpful ID tips, to body size ranges, to seasonal distribution, to 99 species of the trees, shrubs and perennials preferred by 27 genera of our most common bees, Heather Holm covers it all. This is the book pollination biologists and homeowners alike have been waiting for,’ wrote Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*.

NOTE: Tallamy’s book, *Bringing Nature Home; How you can sustain wildlife with Native Plants,* also is recommended reading by AGC member Cindy Cartner. It is considered a classic to proponents of native plant gardening.

—*Joanne Dugenske, Philanthropy*



Antioch Garden Club General Meeting Minutes **March 8, 2020**

WELCOME: Betty Collins, assigned leader **CALL TO ORDER:** 3 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & GARDEN CLUB PLEDGE: Betty Collins

Secretary's Report: The December 1, 2019 minutes were published in the *Garden Dirt*. Hearing no corrections or additions the minutes were filed.

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

Correspondence: Thank you notes received from Antioch Historical Society & Antioch Public Library.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Auditing: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Conservation/Horticulture: No report.

Historian: No report.

Hospitality: March lead hostess is Cheryl Hoke. Hostesses along with Cheryl were Dee Obrochta, Linda Siwek, & Liz Winters. Annette Lubkeman. April - Judy Caldwell, Hostess, Kendall Victorine, Pete Ivanov

Membership: 21 members were in attendance along with one guest.

Nominating: Barb Gollwitzer reported **we need a president**. The committee has called and recalled and no members are willing to take on responsibility. Lana has agreed to be our treasurer and Jayna will be the secretary. Betty Sprovieri will work with Linda Fox as vice president, and Linda Siwek & Jackie Horneck will co-chair membership.

Philanthropy: We need to replace the tree near the scout house. A new book will be available soon at the library on canning & preserving food.

Programs: Today's program on Butterfly gardening was presented by Holly Swehla. April's program will be a Painting Party. Heather Bauspies, owner of Antioch Flower Shop and local inhouse artist Sue Nolan will be instructing us on a small floral enamel painting on canvas. The class will be approximately an hour long. You will take your masterpiece home to enjoy afterwards. No experience necessary! All members are encouraged to invite guests. However, the club cannot absorb the cost for them. **You are responsible for the \$20 fee for your guest!**

—Minutes, continued on page 6

Treasurer's Report

As of March 31, 2021

Beginning Balance :	\$11,956.72
Deposits	
Membership Dues	360.00
Yearbook Award	30.00
Disbursements	
S & S for Wreaths	631.00
Balance on Hand:	\$11,715.72

Respectively Submitted, Lana Svitak, Treasurer

Treasurer's Update

I am so excited to see warmer days ahead! I miss seeing everyone at our club outings and meetings and cannot wait until we can meet again in person. I wanted to highlight the generous donations we received from the community this past year. I will never stop being amazed and grateful for the support we get from the community.

October - \$2,000 from the Lion's Club

November - \$100 from the Antioch Women's Club

January & March - \$200, \$250, respectively, from Dennis Downes (Trail Marker Artist)

We have done a great job of minimizing expenses this year and will be in good financial shape when we are able to resume club activities. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!

-Lana Svitak, Treasurer

Special Projects: Monarch Initiative

The club's Monarch Butterfly Initiative, spearheaded by Joanne Dugenske and Joyce Kufalk, made the news! Joanne and Joyce are credited in this article in the March 24 issue of the *Hi-Liter* for giving the village the idea to pursue a project to protect monarchs. The village signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, promising action to protect monarchs and pollinators. Way to go ladies!

Antioch joins in on National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge

The Village of Antioch has signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, committing to take actions to help save the declining monarch butterfly and other pollinators. The Village of Antioch is now part of an expanding North American network of cities working to create habitat in public parks, public landscaping, vacant lots, roadsides, medians, green roofs, backyard gardens and open spaces throughout the entire community.

"Cities, towns and counties play a pivotal role in advancing monarch butterfly conservation in urban and suburban areas," said Patrick Fitzgerald, senior director of community wildlife at the National Wildlife Federation. "By working together, we can ensure that every American child has a chance to experience majestic monarchs in their communities."

"This project was initially brought to us by Joanne Dugenske and Joyce Kufalk from the Antioch Garden Club, looking for community involvement to help support the monarch," said Mayor Lawrence M. Hanson. "With National Wildlife Week just around the corner in early April, I thought of no greater time to issue the proclamation calling public attention to the decline of the butterfly and pledging the Village of Antioch's support for the iconic species."

In addition to issuing the proclamation, the Public Works Department also worked with the Antioch Garden Club to have milkweed planted in

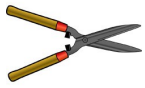
Found across the United States, monarch butterflies numbered around 1 billion in 1996. Today, their numbers have declined significantly as a result of numerous threats, particularly the loss of habitat due to cropland conversion, urban development, and agricultural practices. Degradation of wintering habitat in Mexico and California has also had a negative impact on the species.

Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, cities and municipalities commit each year to create habitat and educate residents on how to make a difference at home or in their community. Mayors who take the pledge commit to at least three of 30 action items to help save the monarch butterfly. These actions include creating a monarch-friendly garden at city hall, converting abandoned lots to monarch habitat, changing mowing schedules to allow milkweed to grow unimpeded, and 27 other possible actions.

Through the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Programs, cities, counties and towns across the United States are helping local wildlife by restoring and reconnecting habitat in urban and suburban areas while reconnecting people with nature.

For more information about the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, please go to: NWF.org/MayorsMonarchPledge. Visit the National Wildlife Federation Media Center at NWF.org/News.





Horticulture Committee Report



Here we are in 2021, the year we may get to see each other in person. I hope you are all well. The Hort Committee has agreed to do what we did last year, that is, have “Weedin’ Wednesdays” ... We met each Wednesday and did deep weeding, cultivating, a little trash pickup, and whatever we felt was important. We always started with the Mini Park, and moved on to the Seven Son Garden with the Brad Ipsen Bench pretty much at the same time. That swale is brutal ! And then work our way up the split rail fence to the berm. Our beautiful berm! As folks are stopped at the red light there, we get a LOT of compliments.

The committee consists of me, Judy Caldwell, Karen Coulter, Linda Fox, Laura Paukner, Chong Li, and Cindy Cartner. You are welcome to join us. Please know we are very aware of social distancing, and wearing masks! You are also welcome to join the committee. We would welcome you! I have not thought about the weekly weeding schedule at all yet, if ever! If you are able, please join us on any Wednesday. I am aware that a requirement of being a member is to pitch in weeding, etc. but that is just not possible. If you just want to come visit us on Wednesdays, bring a chair!

You may or may not have heard that the eyesore known as the Pittman Property has been purchased by the village. It's at the intersection of Main and Depot Streets, where our Blue Star Memorial Garden is located. That sale closed in December, and now the discussion has turned to what to do with the property (our gardens surround it, by the way). A few of us listened in on the village board meeting as a presentation was made by the Lakota Group. They are a professional green space architectural company. The village has retained their services to provide ideas for the Pittman Property, and a few other spots in town. One of the other spots near and dear to our hearts is the Mini Park. There is talk to extend the park west to approximately the Piggly Wiggly with some sort of green walking path. More to come on this project as it unfolds.



The final item I'd like to share is the beautification of the Tim Osmond Sports Park. It is located east on Depot. (There is another small Osmond Park in Westgate subdivision.) Antioch Township Supervisor Tom Shaughnessy presented this to our club a few meetings ago. The main attraction will be an 18-hole frisbee golf course. There is going to be an interpretive trail with native plantings extending around the course. We are included in this project as advisors. The Lake County Audubon Society also is included, so we are looking forward to having a beautiful bird and pollinator area in our village. Tom has also partnered with a company in Twin Lakes, Wis. called Green-

Line Synergy. They have come out on several occasions already and did a final planning walk-through in March. They are amazing. They have thousands of seeds, and when we tell them our final wishes, they start the seeds in water on the roof. In a few short weeks, our seedlings are ready to be planted. The township maintenance workers will prepare the sites, and GreenLine brings palette like plantings to be planted. Stay-tuned, as I think when the plants come, all of our expertise will be called upon!

- *Chairwoman Holly Markwart Swehla*

— Minutes, cont. from page 2

Publicity:

P.R.: Cynthia Stepanek & Chong Li need to review the rack cards that we are currently using and update.

Newsletter: Jayna announced March 18, 2020 is the deadline for the newsletter.

Website and Yearbook: No report.

Scholarships: Judy Caldwell may have a possible candidate.

Special Projects:

Monarch Butterfly – No report.

Wreath decoration – No report.



Ways & Means:

Plant Sale: Will be held May 16, 2020 at the shelter behind the library. Heartland Bank donated \$1,250 as our sponsor. There will be a display in their lobby as well as State Bank of the Lakes. Flyers are now available.

New Business: None

Old Business: Meeting on Sundays: A member at large brought up that Sunday is not a good day for us to meet as it is traditionally a family day for them. Several members spoke up and requested the club vote on it. It was agreed that this will be put on the agenda for the March board meeting for discussion. A survey was distributed to members to fill out and our programs chairperson will take into consideration.

Raffle: Carolyn Yoakem, chairman, conducted the raffle, \$74 was realized.

Announcements:

Eco-Fair will be held on April 25, 2020.

On April 2, 2020, a meet and greet will be held at Floral Acres.

April meeting: Assigned leader is Cynthia Stepanek



Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Hoke, Secretary

AGC member wins District IX award

Congratulations to our Yearbook Editor Chong Li for again earning recognition for the Antioch Garden Club Yearbook!
The 2020-2021 yearbook, designed by Chong, took 2nd place in District IX for same-size clubs. “Congratulations to Chong for this very well-deserved award. It’s very apparent the time and consideration Chong contributes to our wonderful yearbook,” said AGC Co-President Betty Sprovieri in her congratulatory message.

SPRING Cleanup Reminder: We will have our annual spring cleanup, Saturday, April 17, 2021. Meet at the Mini Park at 9 a.m. Bring a large garbage bag, your garden gloves, rakes, pruners, whatever you think we may need—and a smile! Hope to see you!

THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, Il 60002



Spring