



THE GARDEN DIRT

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

<https://antiochgardenclub.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?>



President's Message

February 2024 greetings! What a crazy year this has been weather-wise. Feb. 27, the forecast was 70 degrees! As I look forward to the 2024-2025 year for the club, I am very excited. We are gaining new members, while keeping our current membership. Nancy Colby is our Publicity Chair, and she is doing a marvelous job of promoting our club. The club is grateful. There are many gardeners in the Antioch area we still need to reach. Social media has helped that tremendously.

We were well represented at the Seed Expo Extravaganza in Round Lake Feb. 10. Joyce Kufalk, Agime Rahmani, myself and Dee Obrochta "manned" our table. Nancy Colby brought the beautiful new sign we will be using for all of our future publicity events. Last year, 1,200 visitors passed our table. This year, 1,640 saw us! The sign really helped, and we got some great new prospective members, along with a few potential program ideas.

There is still time to "winter sow" seeds to offer to our customers at the plant sale on May 18, 2024. I will be happy to review the process for you, if you are so inclined.

- *President's Message, cont. p. 5*

March Program

Painted Rocks. Our very own Nancy Colby will present how to paint rocks. Nancy is an extraordinary artist. If you are a garden lover, or a rock lover, or an artist lover, join us! Bring a friend!

Hospitality & Raffle

Hostess Carol Yoakem: Susan Serowicki, Dee Obrochta, Annette Lubkeman

New Committee Chairs

Thank you **Jennifer Wittenberg**, who volunteered to be our new Scholarship Chair, and **Elizabeth Vogt**, who stepped up to be Yearbook chair! We appreciate you!

Welcome! Welcome new member Agime Rahmani, who already joined in— the Seed Expo! She wants to learn, contribute to the community and meet new people. Greetings!

CALENDAR

March 9 — General Meeting, 1 p.m., Antioch United Methodist Church, doors open 12:30 p.m.

March 27 — Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Antioch Village Center

April 6— Spring Cleanup, 9 a.m., Meet at Mini-Park next to Vintage Mercantile downtown

April 13— General Meeting, 1 p.m., Antioch United Methodist Church; 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, Interim Vice President-Judy Caldwell, Secretary-Nancy Zitkus, 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.

M
E
M
B
E
R
S
N
E
W
S

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Plant Sale is Primary Fundraiser

Your donations of time, baked goods, established perennials, annuals, and garden-related items/decor will be needed for this to be successful as our only fundraiser. Seed-starting and house plant divisions can take place soon. Please think about what you can contribute and how you can volunteer.

Find what's comfortable for you among these positions:

- 1-2 volunteers needed to organize/price the Bake Sale
- 1-2 volunteers to tape sale posters in Antioch business windows
- 2 cashiers (bring cashbox of small bills and change)
- Coffee for volunteers
- Dig/pot plants for members unable to themselves
- Place signs & balloons on sale morning, pick up same after sale

I'll be bringing pots with trays & craftstix (for you to label your plants) to future meetings. However, please remember to save your pots from season to season. Later this spring, please let me know of the variety of perennials you might bring. I can then make-up a colorful horticulture ID with photo.

We always have fun and learn more about horticulture during this event. Mark your calendars, tell your friends and save your purchasing dollars for our club's fundraiser on Saturday, May 18. Thanks, in advance, to all those who make my job easier and proud to be part of such a hard-working bunch!

Please contact me to volunteer or if you have questions about the positions.

Cindy Cartner, sedan1@msn.com,
847.395.8902

"All through the long winter, I dream of my garden. On the first day of spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel it's energy, and my spirits soar." Helen Hayes

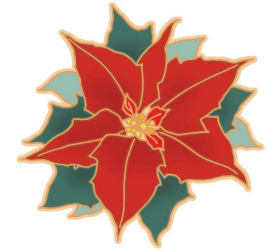
-Cindy Cartner

sedan1@msn.com, 847.395.8902.



2023 Plant Sale Crew

Antioch Garden Club, General Meeting, Dec. 9, 2024



WELCOME: Holly Swehla, President **CALL TO ORDER:** 1 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND GARDEN CLUB PLEDGE

President, Holly Swehla paused the meeting for our program led by Holly and Vice President Judy Caldwell. Their program was on Winter Sowing in Jugs. Winter sowing is a method of starting seeds outdoors in winter in an enclosed container, allowing them to germinate in spring. The only seeds that can't be winter sown are tropical seeds.

Refreshments followed.

President Holly brought the meeting back to order.

Secretary's Report: Nancy Zitkus. The minutes were published in the *Garden Dirt*; hearing no corrections, the minutes were filed.

Treasurer's Report: Lana Svitak. The treasurer's report was published in the *Garden Dirt*; there being no corrections, the report will be filed for audit. Balance on Hand-\$12,395.33; Disbursements-\$1,505.29; no Deposits; Balance on Hand as of September 29, 2023 - \$10,890.04.

Correspondence: Thank you from Lakes Region Historical Society and Antioch Public Library District for the wreaths that were presented to them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation/Horticulture: Laura Vertz: Laura announced she is stepping down as Horticulture Chairman. She reported that the NGC website would like members to participate in Plant America, Feed America. Members to consider growing food (fruits and vegetables) and donate extra produce to, in our area, would be Open Arms Mission. Also well-established tomato plants would be welcomed. Lap blankets would be welcomed for the upcoming Valentine's Day.

Hospitality: Betty Sprovieri. Betty thanked the hostesses for today.

Membership: ackie Horneck. Jackie has been experiencing some heart problems so Carol Zwiazek will be reporting. There was 23 members and 1 guest present – Kybe Thomas.

Publicity: Nancy Colby. No report.

Newsletter: Jayna Legg. President Holly had some Newsletters to hand out.

Website: Lana Svitak. Lana has been updating the site and will update today's meeting.

Facebook: Lori Linck. No report.

Special Projects: Mary Yott. Mary reported a great response on the wreath decorating. She will be going through the supplies again. Thanks everyone who participated. Also the decorating of the tree at the Sawmill Festival of Trees. Thank you everyone who participated, hopefully we will win a prize.



Vice President Judy Caldwell and President Holly Markwart Swehla presented "Winter Sowing" at the Dec. meeting.

—December Minutes, continued on p. 6

AGC Treasurer's Reports

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer

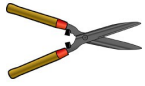
Jan. 2024

Beginning Bank Balance				\$ 7,323.84
Disbursements Cleared				
	Check #	Paid to	Committee	
12/29/2023	1208	Barb Gollwitzer	Monarch initiative (ornaments for milkweed seeds)	28.88
1/21/2024	1209	Antioch Chamber	Chamber dues	50.00
Total				\$ 78.88
Deposits				
	From			
1/1/2024	Deposit	Festival of trees, first place prize		225.00
1/1/2024	Deposit	Raffles - December		40.00
Total				\$ 265.00
Ending Bank Balance 1/31/24				\$ 7,509.96
Disbursements Outstanding				
1/21/2024	1210	University of Illinois Extension Office	Publicity, Seed Expo, 1 table	25.00
Total				\$ 25.00
Ending Book Balance 1/31/24				\$ 7,484.96

Dec., 2023

Beginning Bank Balance				\$ 7,368.59
Disbursements Cleared				
	Check #	Paid to	Committee	
12/9/2023	1206	Betty Sprovieri	Hospitality - December	19.75
12/9/2023	1207	United Methodist Church	Operations	25.00
Total				\$ 44.75
Deposits				
	From			
Total				\$ -
Ending Bank Balance 12/31/23				\$ 7,323.84
Disbursements Outstanding				
12/29/2023	1208	Barb Gollwitzer	Monarch initiative (ornaments for milkweed seeds)	28.88
Total				\$ 28.88
Ending Book Balance 12/31/23				\$ 7,294.96

—Treasurer's Reports continued on p. 6



Horticulture Committee Report

Village garden maintenance to start soon

The Horticulture Committee has the important civic duty of heading up care of five village gardens, created by club members over the years.



But the committee can't do it without the help of all members! Although the village installed sprinklers in the gardens, we still need you to volunteer one week during the growing season for garden maintenance. You'll see a signup sheet going around at the next couple meetings with time slots this spring and summer.

We ask that you try and make it out as often as you can during your week.

You will not be alone unless you choose to be. We usually have two people a week. So pick your buddy and sign up together or the Horticultural chairs can help find a great partner for you.

Starting on page 28 in your Antioch Garden Club yearbook, you will find what needs to be done each month. It also tells you what to do with the trash, clippings and where the hoses are for watering.

So lets all join together and do what we do best. Keep the gardens in Antioch looking beautiful. Thank you all for being a part of this club and for signing up to help!

—President's Message, continued from p. 1

Club's exposure at Seed Expo far-reaching

With the new fiscal year here, we need many of our leadership positions filled. This is a great opportunity to be a part of a fun bunch of gardeners. Our Nominating Committee will be contacting each of us to review current positions, and candidates for the future. PLEASE consider adding your talents. It is GREATLY appreciated!



We will continue to support Open Arms Mission by collecting Socks for Souls. We recently donated a shopping bag full of socks, and will continue to collect . We also are in contact with Open Arms about critical shortfalls in the monthly needs. I am attempting to pass this info on to the club. They are an amazing organization that provides local families in dire need of food. I am proud to help our neighbors. We also will be starting vegetable plants. More to come on that subject.

I know Cindy Cartner will be writing a bit about the passing of Dennis Downes, but I also want to include my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Gail, and their organization. Dennis sculpted the bronze bent trailmarker tree in our mini park, and has been a wonderful supporter of the club. He will be greatly missed.

Antioch has a rich history of Native American activity, and this tree represents a wonderful part of that. Our history is fascinating.

- Holly Markwart Swehla

—Treasurer's Reports continued from p. 4

AGC Treasurer's Report November, 2023

Beginning Bank Balance				\$ 10,578.16
Disbursements Cleared				
	Check #	Paid to	Committee	
11/11/2023	1201	Judy Caldwell	Hospitality	13.50
11/11/2023	1202	Andrea Pressman	Programs - November	350.00
11/11/2023	1203	Mary Yott	Wreath Decorating	736.31
11/11/2023	1204	Village of Antioch	Monarch initiative (Bench)	2066.00
11/22/2023	1205	Laura Vertz	Horticulture	121.76
			Total	\$ 3,287.57
Deposits				
11/28/2023		From Deposit	Raffles - November	78.00
			Total	\$ 78.00
Ending Bank Balance 11/30/23				\$ 7,368.59
Disbursements Outstanding				
			Total	\$ -
Ending Book Balance 11/30/23				\$ 7,368.59

—December Minutes, continued from p. 3

Bench for Williams Park has been ordered

Monarch Initiative: Barb Gollwitzer. Barb sent her report. The committee reported that the bench that will be placed at Williams Park in honor of our club and the Antioch Lions Club, has been ordered, and she will notify the club when it comes in, and when it will be installed. The village will not be charging us for the installation fee that is normally charged to an individual who makes such a purchase. Mary Yott approached Barb about the best way to place milkweed seeds on our Christmas tree at Hiram Buttrick Sawmill. I offered for the Monarch Committee to purchase those.

New Business: President Holly called for members to be on the Nominating Committee to secure the 2024-2026 officers and committee chairs. Betty Sprovieri from the board, Jennifer Wittenberg, and Laura Skender from the general membership have stepped forward. Thank you ladies.

The raffle was conducted. No further business, Pres. Holly adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Zitkus, Secretary*

Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby

Members did not hibernate over the Winter season!

Mary Yott headed our wreath-decorating day this year. Members gathered for a fun day of attaching ornaments, making ribbons and getting glitter everywhere. We were even served donuts and coffee by Antioch



Mayor Scott Gartner! A total of 30 wreaths were gifted to the town by our club. Thanks to everyone who joined us in the fun. Our members had a lot of fun creating the wreaths that brought so much holiday joy to our community.



Festival of Trees

We won first place for our Save the Monarch themed tree in the Festival of Trees!

Thank you to everyone who braved the cold to decorate and take down our tree. It was a great success and raised \$225 for the garden club!



Holly Swehla, Laura Vertz and Mary Yott gave the blankets to Open Arms Mission.

Blankets for Open Arms Mission

Laura Vertz mentioned Open Arms Mission needed blankets. As soon as Laura suggested, Mary Yott jumped up and said she would head up a blanket-making day! The date was set, and the material was purchased. An enthusiastic group of members met at the Antioch Library and got to work. It was a fun evening of cutting, tying and chatter. Everyone had a great time and, in the process, made eleven blankets to be donated. Members paid for their material, so there was no cost to the garden club. It felt good to do good.

Winter Sowing Project

The program for a cold December was aptly *Winter Seed Sowing*. It's a great way to start a spring garden. Members learned the how and why of this planting method. Save those jugs! Plant those seeds!



—Social Happenings, continued on p. 8

Members worked Seed Expo

It was that time of year again. Time for the University of Illinois Master Gardeners Seed Expo Extravaganza! And what an year extravaganza it was! Last year there were 1,200 attendees. This Holly predicted there would be 2,000.



Though we haven't heard the final number it is near to or even more than her prediction of 2000. Our garden club had a table with members who were quick to promote our club and to answer questions.

Our very own Master Gardener Collette Monahan, pictured on the left, was busy on the "seed side" of things passing out seeds and helping people decide what they should plant this coming spring year. She also worked very hard for weeks before the event preparing the seed packets for distribution.



Holly Swehla, Agime Rahmani and Dee Obrochta (Joyce Kufalk, not pictured, took a well-deserved break after working hard).

Thanks to the ladies who worked at our membership table: Holly Swehla, Joyce Kufalk, Dee Obrochta and Agime Rahmani. If you missed it this year, don't miss it next year!

In Memoriam

Dennis Downes artist, sculptor, writer and long-time supporter of the Antioch Garden Club, passed away peacefully February 25 at his Channel Lake home after a heroic and long battle with cancer.

Dennis was the artist who created the lifelike "Trail Marker" tree in our mini-park. The 6-foot bronze sculpture was dedicated in 2018 in Antioch. The story goes he was inspired as a young person when he saw his first trail marker tree. The trees were used by Native Americans to designate trails and other points of interest. Dennis was quite the supporter of our club, both verbally and financially, and he will be greatly missed.

— Cindy Cartner



Laura Vertz; Dennis's wife, Gail Spreen; Dennis Downes; his friend and the cinematographer who worked on a movie about Dennis; Cindy Cartner and Karen Coulter stand by the Trail Marker Tree.

~ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL MEMBER DUES~

2024-25

Individuals \$30; Couples \$50

Membership dues apply June to following June and are due by April 1

Make checks payable to: Antioch Garden Club

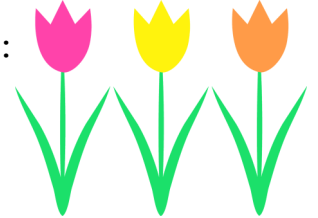
Membership includes: Garden Clubs of Illinois Central Region District IX
and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Please fill out the following information return to:

Treasurer, Antioch Garden Club

P.O. Box 4283

Antioch, IL 60002



-----detach-----

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP CODE + 4 DIGITS: _____ + _____

HOME PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

BIRTHDAY: _____

(leave blank) Paid _____ Date _____

THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, IL 60002



March