



THE GARDEN DIRT

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Website: Antiochgardenclub.org

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President's Column

I am writing this article on Friday March 28, 2025. It's 79 stunning degrees! I'll take it! Sunday, snow in the forecast! But, it's March!

After a short winter break, we are gearing up for the upcoming season. Lots going on. Nancy C. and I manned the table at the Seed Expo 2025. It was incredible! Approximately 2,500 gardeners came through the doors. It was held at College of Lake County in Grayslake. We FILLED the gymnasium!

We got several potential new members, LOTS of ideas for programs, and just had an amazing day with TONS of free seeds! Vendors galore, and raffle prizes to die for! I have discussed at the board meeting, that if next year's expo falls on the same day as our regular meeting, we will need to reschedule our date. The expo is really something I believe you would ALL enjoy.

Back to reality! Nancy C. and Carol Z. represented us at the Shamrock festival.

—See President's Column, cont. on page 4

Birthdays:

4/8—Viki Chapman

4/10—Sandi Swiss

4/20—Joyce Kufalk

April Meeting: "Judging Roses."

Dr. Andrew Plaszczyk, a world-renowned rosarian and winner of the American Rose Society's Joseph & Marion Kilma Medal for rose education, will explain the characteristics of various roses and how he judges them. He has been a member of the American Rose Society since 1976. He is one of 30 Master Rosarians in Illinois-Indiana District. He maintains a garden of more than 87 roses of all types and is an avid exhibitor.

March Hospitality & Raffle:

Sharon Pendergast, hostess, with Colette Monahan, Joanne Dugenske, Viki Chapman, and Lana Svitak.

CALENDAR

April 12—General Meeting, 1 p.m., Antioch Village Center, doors open 12:30 p.m.

April 23—Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Antioch Village Center

May 3—Spring Planting, 10 a.m., Mini-park

May 10—General Meeting, 1 p.m., Antioch Village Center, 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-Lana Svitak

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

AGC Plant Sale is May 17

The club's plant/perennial/bake sale is on Saturday, May 17th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Williams Park pavilion, 741 Main St. in Antioch (behind the library). We'll need donations from all club members in the form of annuals, perennials, herbs, indoor houseplants, preserves, books, garden-related items, and volunteer time.

I'd like to know what you'll be bringing so that I can make-up colorful plant IDs. I'll be bringing pots, trays and Craft Stix to the April meeting 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 your plants into pots by April 18 or so, so they can be established and fill-out their containers.

Sadly, the club doesn't yet have two volunteers to conduct the bake sale that has been so successful in past years. If interested, please contact past organizers Nancy Zitkus or Betty Collins for questions on this easy volunteer position.

Saturday, help is needed for set-up, starting at 8 a.m. You'll deliver the plants at the north side of the pavilion, where you'll park your vehicle. The plants get priced before being placed on 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 1 p.m., tidy the pavilion and call it a day!

Local beekeeper, Peter Poli, will have a display of his organic honey, soaps, and scented wax products. We receive 10 percent of his profits that day. Please support him, by buying local, and getting the advantage of the kickback to our club. I've also asked a local knife/tool sharpener to attend this year.

When you help, you're bound to 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 are many competing plant sales in May. We know that 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.

Please contact me if you have any questions or want to volunteer.

Cindy Cartner, sedan1@msn.com, 224-406-6615.

"April Hath Put A Spirit Of Youth In Everything"

William Shakespeare



Cindy Cartner at the 2024 AGC Plant Sale

Antioch Garden Club General Mtg. Minutes March 8, 2025



WELCOME: VP Betty Sprovieri, Acting President **CALL TO ORDER:** 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance & Garden Club Pledge: On back of name tag & page 64 in yearbook.

Meeting Paused for Program: “*Getting Started with Seeds*” was presented by Gloria Maliszewski, Master Gardener. Very interesting program with information for new & experienced gardeners alike.

Secretary’s Report: February minutes were published in *The Garden Dirt*. There was one additional correction of an incorrect spelling of a member’s name. This has been corrected in the file copy. Being no further corrections, the minutes will be filed. Motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Lana Svitak turned in the FY2025 Income Report and the FY2025 Expense Report. These will be published in *The Garden Dirt*.

Correspondence: Chris reported we received the following mail this month: State Farm Policy Info Packet, Domain Services Invoice, Membership Renewal & Dues. A donation of \$500 was given to the club from Sally Rodgers. Big Thank You to Sally! (Thank you note was sent). Additional mail included several flyers and several credit card applications. These have been shredded.

Standing Committee Reports

Audit: Norma L., Dee O. – No report

Bylaws: Judy C. – Will be discussed at April Meeting

Historian: Joyce K., Elizabeth V. – No report

Horticulture: Judy C. – Committee meets every other Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Mini-Park. Maintenance Schedule will be distributed next meeting. Collette will work on the pots after the Spring Planting, May 3. If anyone is interested in joining this committee, please contact Judy.

Hospitality: Sharon P. Thank you to this month’s Hostesses; Barb G., Dee O., Lana S., Cheryl H. & Sharon P. Hopefully everyone is included who helped with our delicious St. Patrick’s Day themed refreshments. Each month, we ask the lead host/hostess to please remind your team of the date they hostess. *Host/Hostess* – If you can’t make your date please find a substitute.

Membership: Carol Z., Jackie H., Jennifer W., Nancy Z. There were 19 members and one guest present for the meeting. **REMINDER:** Membership dues are due April 1. New fonts are being implemented for name tags.

Nominating: No report

Philanthropy/Arbor Day: Jane B., Joanne D. Hope to have a Swamp Oak planted at Thelen Park on April 25.

Programs: Susan U. Our April speaker will talk about *Rose Gardening*. We’ve had great programs this year. We urge all members to try to make it to the meetings!

—Minutes, continued on page 6

February AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer

Beginning Bank Balance					\$ 9,574.92
Disbursements Cleared					
	Check #	Paid to	Committee		
12/31/2024	1270	Lake County Extension Found.	Seed Expo		25.00
1/30/2025	1271	Nancy Colby	Publicity		81.25
2/8/2025	1274	Joyce Kufalk	Historian		11.00
2/8/2025	1275	Mary Yott	Special Projects		116.00
2/8/2025	1276	Betty Sprovieri	Hospitality - February		22.74
				Total	\$ 255.99
Deposits					
		From			
2/18/2025		Deposit	District luncheon		330.00
2/18/2025		Deposit	Raffles - December		62.00
				Total	\$ 392.00
Ending Bank Balance 2/28/25					\$ 9,710.93
Disbursements Outstanding					
2/3/2025	1272	Dist IX, GCI	District luncheon		330.00
2/4/2025	1273	Dist IX, GCI	District luncheon		55.00
				Total	\$ 385.00
Ending Book Balance 2/28/25				Total	\$ 9,325.93

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

The festival was put on by the Village of Antioch and the Antioch Chamber of Commerce. We are grateful, ladies.

We will have done the spring cleanup on Saturday, April 5 by the time you read this, and, the stretch class organized by Mary Yott. Thanks Mary! What a great way to start the season, learning how to prepare our bodies.

The maintenance calendar is available for sign-ups. Please see Judy C. or myself if you have questions or concerns. We are hoping to have some young muscle and we would love each member to join a team of two. If you cannot do the physical work, I'll bet you would be happy to share your knowledge with one of our students. More on that as the season approaches.

Plant sale is looming. See Cindy C, for questions. If I am not mistaken, we need a bake sale "chair."

For **Arbor Day**, we are donating a Swamp White Oak tree to the new Vern Thelen Park. All invited to join us to dedicate it, at 1 p.m., April 25, at the park, 39900 N. Rena Avenue in Antioch.

As always, I am very approachable to new ideas, etc. Let me know. Bloom where you are planted!

—Holly Swehla, President



Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby, Publicity

District IX Annual Meeting

The District IX Annual Meeting was a swanky event held at Cotillion Banquets in Palatine. Members of our club who attended were Holly Swehla, Chris Priller, Jane Buck, Norma Lucansky, Nancy Zitkus, Betty Collins and Nancy Colby.

The day started with pastries, coffee and juice before the meeting. The meeting was held and included the installation of new board members. Following the meeting we adjourned to the ballroom complete with elegant table settings, excellent food and great raffle baskets. Betty Collins was the big winner at our table and took home both a raffle basket and the table centerpiece.

Following the lunch was a floral design artist who wowed everyone with the ease with which he created his masterpieces.



Antioch has the happiest president!



Right: The winning club presidents are pictured, with our own Holly also winning best smile



The highlight of the day, though, was indeed the award presentations. Antioch Garden Club won second place for the Civic Project Award. This was awarded for our work in the Mini-Park garden.

President Holly accepted the award. Now who can say she wasn't thrilled? She's got the happiest, most appreciative face of all the presidents.

We're so thankful for our win and for being acknowledged by District IX as an active and enthusiastic garden club doing good work in our community.



Remember to mark **Sunday, July 20 from 1-4 p.m.** in INK on your calendar!
We are planning an incredibly special 30th Anniversary Celebration.
Details will be coming to you in the next months. Get ready to party!

—Minutes, continued from p. 3

Publicity: Nancy C. No report.

Newsletter: Jayna L. **April 2nd** is the deadline for all articles.

Website: Lana S. Site is up to date but we need more photos. Please send them to Lana.

Yearbook: Elizabeth V. No report

Facebook: Nancy C., Holly S. No report

Scholarship: Jennifer W., Donna R., Cheryl H. Applications/info has been sent to all appropriate places.

Special Projects

Wreath Decorating: Mary Y. No report

Monarch Initiative: Barb G. No report

Blankets for Open Arms Mission: Mary Y. With JoAnne Fabrics going out of business, Mary was able to purchase materials for 26 blankets for next year.

Ways & Means: Barb G. No report

Plant Sale: Jayna L. for Cindy C. Flyers are done & being distributed. **May 17** is the date. Set-up is at 8 a.m. Sale is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Park by the pool. Sticks, pots, etc. will be brought to the next meeting. If you have additional questions, please contact Cindy. *This is our biggest fund raiser.* We need someone to run the **bake sale**. If you need info on how to do this, please contact Nancy Z. or Betty C., our resident experts.

Old Business: We continue to collect *Socks for Souls* for Open Arms Mission. This is very appreciated.

New Business: Mary Y. Mary will have sheep manure available. There is no smell and it's usable for plant fertilizer. This is for members only.

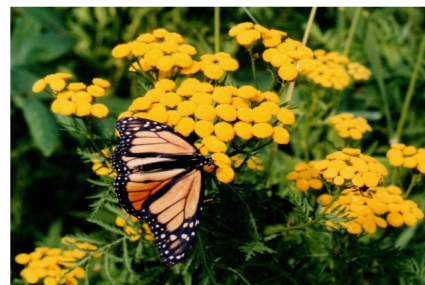
Mary is checking on an available date for a physical therapist to show us helpful stretches to help prevent those aches and pains of gardening. More info to follow.

Mary also suggested we start a community project of a "Rock Snake." Probable location will be across from the new park, which has become a very high walking traffic area. Google this if you want to see examples. We would start the 'snake' with a rock head and a few other rocks for the body. The community would be invited to add additional painted rocks! Looks like fun!



Perennial Plant Sale

SATURDAY MAY 17 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

 **Heartland**

—Minutes, continued on page 7

Sign up for garden maintenance at April meeting

A collection of green gardening tools and supplies. It includes a green bucket with a silver handle, a pair of green gloves, a pair of green rubber boots, a green trowel, a green garden fork, and a spool of light brown twine. The items are arranged on a white background.

Happy gardening!

—Cindy Cartner contributed to this article

—*Minutes*, continued from p. 6

Respectfully submitted, Chris Priller, Secretary

~ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL MEMBER DUES~

2025-2026

Individuals \$30; Couples \$50

Membership dues apply July to the 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

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE+ 4 DIGITS _____ + _____

Home phone number _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Birthday _____

(leave blank) PAID _____ DATE _____

THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

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Antioch, Il 60002

