March 2025 Volume 26 Number 2

THE GARDEN DIRT

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

Website: Antiochgardenclub.org

Facebook: Antioch Garden Club-Antioch IL

President's Column

Sunny greetings! These months sure fly by … seems like I just wrote an article for the *Garden Dirt*. Many thanks to Jayna Legg for her continued beautiful newsletters.

It's coming up to gardening season. Now is the time to plan your gardens for the 2025 season. Take "stock" of what you have, what you need. I don't know this for sure, but I believe Wray Schmeig will be at our plant sale sharpening tools (we probably get first dibs in his schedule for the day). Donna Reiter showed us her most favorite tool - the Stihl battery operated mini chainsaw at our last meeting. I need one! I use a "manual" bow saw. I can really go to town with it, but the battery operated one sure looks like much less muscle is needed.

Judy Caldwell and I got together and have created the calendar for the seasonal maintenance. Please see Judy for signup. We plan to "publish" the list on our members-only Facebook page.

——*See President's Column, cont. on page 5*

Birthdays:

3/8—Joan Vitello

3/22—Chris Priller

March Meeting: Getting Started With Seeds. This detailed presentation takes you back to the important basics but throws in a lot of pro tips for your seed-starting success. Even experienced flower and vegetable gardeners will learn a lot!

March Hospitality & Raffle: **Barb Gollwitzer**, hostess, with Sharon Pendergast, Dee Obrochta & Lana Svitak.

Board meetings—you are invited. Please R.S.V.P. to Holly if you plan to attend. The executive board and committee chairs are expected to attend. The next one is March 26, at the Antioch Village Center, 817 Holbek Drive.

CALENDAR

March 8—General Meeting, 1 p.m., Antioch Village Center, doors open 12:30 p.m.
March 26—Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Antioch Village Center
April 5—Spring Cleanup, 10 a.m., Mini-park
April 12—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/

MEMBER NEWS

AGC Plant Sale Fundraiser Heads Up

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 17**. Our annual Plant Sale will need ***all hands on deck!*** The roofed William's Park pavilion, 741 Main St, (behind the library, near the train depot) will be the location again. The sale is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

- The club needs two volunteers to organize/price/conduct the bake sale.
- The club needs one more member to help Holly S. place and remove signs before and after on the morning the sale.

I'll be bringing pots with trays and Craft Stix (for you to label/ID your plants) to the April and May meetings, and you can always contact me for more. Please remember to save your pots from past seasons also. I'll be making colorful horticulture IDs with photos, so let me know if you're bringing anything unusual.

We always have fun and learn more about horticulture at this event. Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and save your purchasing dollars to support our club on Saturday, May 17. Thank you, in advance, to everyone who has already volunteered for key sale positions. You make my job easier. I look forward to working again this year with all the AGC members.

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

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

2024 AGC Plant Sale

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

Helen Hays

Antioch Garden Club General Mtg. Minutes Feb. 8, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance and Garden Club Pledge. Holly wanted all members to know she has the keys to the cabinets.

Meeting paused for SoupFest and conversation. Thank you to this month's Hospitality Hostesses Betty S., Jayna L., Jill M., Joan V., and soup makers Lana, Holly, Judy C., and Susan U. We had a great luncheon of soups, breads, veggies, dips, and various desserts.

Meeting resumed.

Secretary's Report: Chris P. December minutes were published in the February *Garden Dirt.* As there are no corrections, the minutes will be filed. **Note**: There was no January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Lana S. November and December Reports were published in the February *Garden Dirt.* Having no corrections, they will be filed for audit.

Correspondence: Chris reported we received a District 34 information brochure, a Christmas card from the library, three credit card applications, and an advertisement for a children's puppeteer available for hire.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit: No report

Bylaws: Judy C. There are still some yearbooks with incorrect pages 59 & 60. This will be checked and gone over at a board meeting.

Historian: Joyce K requests that any meeting, events, etc., photos are forwarded to her.

Horticulture: Judy C. The committee needs more members. Please email Judy if you are interested. Committee usually meets twice per month. Maintenance schedule will be out in March. Parameters need to be set for potted plants.

Hospitality: Please check the schedule in your yearbook. The lead hostess will contact you with a reminder.

Membership: Carol Z. Today's attendance included 20 members.

Nominating: *Reminder* - We will be needing a new **treasurer**.

Philanthropy/Arbor Day: A tree will be planted at the new park on Rena for Arbor Day.

Programs: Susan U. Absent but reported programs are set through June 2025. March 8 program is *"Getting Started With Seeds."*

Publicity: No report.

Newsletter: Jayna L. Articles are due by February 21.

——*Minutes, continued on page 6*

AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer

January 31, 2025

Beginning Bank Balance					$ 9,574.92
Disbursements Cleared					
	Check #	**Paid to**	**Committee**		
				Total	$ -
Deposits		**From**			
				Total	$ -
Ending Bank Balance 1/31/25					$ 9,574.92
Disbursements Outstanding					
12/31/2024	1270	Lake County Extension Found	Seed Expo		25.00
				Total	$ 25.00
Ending Book Balance 1/31/25				Total	$ 9,549.92

News briefs

◊ **Sock Donation Drive** —We still collect socks to donate to Open Arms Mission's *Socks for the Soul*. Donate **new** socks in original packaging. Please help Open Arms "Warm the hearts & feet of our neighbors."

◊ **Volunteer Hours:** Remember to track hours you volunteer to the club and report them to Donna Rieter, jdrieter@sbcglobal.net. The hours are important because they represent the value the club adds to the community.

◊ **Save the Date:** The Antioch Public Library is hosting the free program *"Fixing Climate Change in Your Backyard (and Frontyard),"* presented by Mike Nowak, 7 p.m., April 17. Register at the library or link here: https://apld.libcal.com/event/13191761

◊ **Save the Date 2**: July 20, 2025 will be the **Antioch Garden Club 30th Anniversary** celebration! There will be a special venue, honored guests, valuable door prizes and a special takeaway gift.

Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby, Publicity

Antioch Garden Club is 30 years old this year!

That is quite an accomplishment for a small club started by a few ladies. We're here; we've grown in membership, enthusiasm and knowledge while beautifying and enhancing our community. To honor this milestone, a change has been made to our logo. It's the same logo but enhanced with a big proud "30" and the years established. Watch for it on the website, in the newsletter and on Facebook. Be proud! You're a member of an important Antioch club!

And speaking of our 30-year anniversary ...

Save the Date!

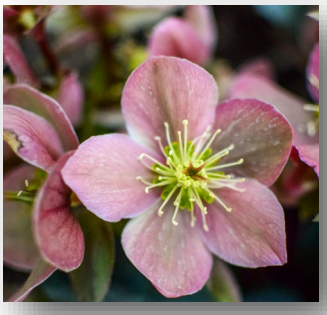
30th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Special venue Honored guests Valuable door prizes Take-away gift

Details in the coming months but mark your calendar now!

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

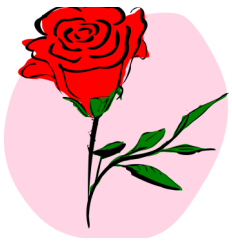


Please let me be the first to say that I like to think of it as a "labor of love." After all, we ARE a garden club! And one of my pro tips: If you wonder if a plant is an unwanted weed or not, choose to not pull it. We'd rather a weed go until we are pretty certain it's an unwanted plant or not.

I will be manning our table March 8 at the Seed Expo, with Nancy Colby. It has grown too big for the Round Lake Cultural Center, so this year it will be at the College of Lake County in Grayslake. More parking, yeah! They are expecting a crowd of 2,000! It's great exposure for our club. I do not like to miss OUR meeting, but Betty Sprovieri has agreed to fill in for me, and I'm certain she will be extraordinary!

Yours Truly, **Holly Swehla, President**

—*Minutes, continued from p. 3*



Website: Lana S. Website is up to date.

Yearbook: Elizabeth V. Absent but pages 59 & 60 need to be checked for updates at the next board meeting (2-26-25). We also need to discuss maps for the yearbook.

Facebook: General FB page is maintained by Nancy C. Members FB page is maintained by Holly S.

Scholarship: Jennifer W. Forms have been updated, sent out to schools, and posted on Facebook. Follow-up on April 4.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Open Arms Blankets: Mary Y. Twenty-seven blankets were made this year. Possible drop-off date is February 11. Additionally, 22 bags of personal care items were donated. Thank you, Sharon P. for your assistance with the bags.

High School Service Hours: Mary reported Lori Linck is the liaison for National Honor Society service hours. We are hoping to get students to help with garden maintenance and the plant sale.

Monarch Initiative: Barb G. is meeting with Tom Shaughnessy in the next two weeks to discuss this project for the new park and the Antioch Township building.

Ways & Means: Barb G. is looking into the possibility of having a Culver's fundraiser in April. Will report back. Barb also suggested setting up a QR Code for our garden club flyers. This would take the viewer directly to the club website.

Plant Sale: Cindy C. Save the date May 17. Flyers will be done by March 8. The plant sale needs the following: Bake sale organizer, flyer distribution, plant diggers to assist. Nancy C. and Barb G. will look for lunch donations. Holly will talk to Scott Gardner and Barb G. will talk to Tom Shaughnessy for donut and coffee donations. We also need a cash checker pen.

Old Business: We continue to collect socks for Open Arms Mission. Mittens are also welcome.

Program Addition Show & Tell: Carol Sackschewsky told us about upcoming programs at the Antioch Fine Arts Foundation Gallery. Donna Ritter brought in a Stihl mini chainsaw to demo. Looks like a great addition to any gardener's tools. Lana Svitak brought in her highly recommended Stihl clippers purchased at Russo Hardware in Hainesville. Stacy Vogt showed us her magnetic belt clip phone holder. Great for keeping your phone out of the dirt and mulch when working outside. Purchased at Hannah's.

Donna Rieter shows a Stihl mini chainsaw.

——*Minutes, continued on page 7*

—Minutes, continued from p. 6

New Business: Motion to approve a $200 line item for our yearly **Blanket Project.** Barb G. made the motion, Betty S. seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Betty S. will fill in for Holly for our March 8 meeting. Holly and Nancy C. will be doing publicity at the U of I Extension Master Gardener *Seed Expo* at the College of Lake County that day.

Announcements: Antioch Library is hosting the free program *"Fixing Climate Change in Your Back (and Front) Yard,"* presented by Mike Nowak, April 17 at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

Kevin McCarty works on his blanket at the Antioch Library in February.

Raffle: Raffle was held with a total of $62 in sales. Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Priller, Secretary

Horticulture Committee Report by Judy Caldwell

Your 'hort committee' is meeting next week to begin our plans for the '25 village gardens. On our agenda is to prepare a maintenance 'sign-up' to be presented at the March meeting. We also want to inform members of the list of prioritized tasks to be done during their volunteer week and the suggested tools needed. These questions came up last year. First, here are the **task** priorities:

1) **Water:** Blue Star Garden does NOT have an irrigation system, and it may have newly planted annuals at the beginning of the season. And all newly planted annuals/perennials in all the village gardens we maintain are next on the list to water.

2) **Weed:** Preferably this will be done before seed production. Look under existing shrubs.

3) **Deadhead:** Perennials and annuals need deadheaded to encourage blooming and shape.

4) **Trash Pickup**: Yard waste should go into a recycling bag (call Holly to arrange village pickup if it's full and leave bag at the West side of parking lot near trash receptacle, or bring to your house for disposal). Regular trash and litter can go into village cans. Never put waste in a private dumpster.

The 'hort' group will fertilize, prune trees/shrubs, divide or move plants, and edge. I encourage you to communicate via text to me with questions about maintenance.

We are working on having high school (Honor Society) students in need of service hours help members who no longer actively garden. We will have keep you updated as this plan is worked out.

A list of **tools** to bring to the gardens follows:

Gloves, good weeding tool (hori knife or dandelion popper), pruners and kneeling pad. Also helpful to bring is sunscreen, hat, water, trash bag and paper yard waste/ recycling bag.

Gardening can improve the winter blues! We're looking forward to a great season of gardening!

~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

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, Il 60002

March