



THE GARDEN DIRT

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Website: Antiochgardenclub.org

Facebook: [Antioch Garden Club-Antioch IL](https://www.facebook.com/AntiochGardenClub-AntiochIL)



President's Column

Warm sunny greetings! Spring Planting was awesome! It was the first time in a long time we had more gardeners than plants. YIPPEE!

Note to self (and Judy), need to buy more plants for next time. It makes my heart happy! With our latest new members – Cris Crego, Michelle Goldstein, Trina Zimmer, Carla Podrasky, Myrta Tiernan and June Miller – we are just gonna have to buy more flowers to keep us all busy.

Of course, I hear a weather forecast for southern Wisconsin of frost. We will need to cover our new plantings with a sheet of newspaper. As my Mother ALWAYS said: 3 iceman days in May! Oh, Mom!

Oh, our club is happening right now! The Culver's night is Monday, May 12, from 5 to 8 p.m., come and have dinner, a snack, or Culver's custard. Forecast for that day is 82 degrees! Then next is the BIG event – the plant sale ... bring plants and or baked goodies.

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

Birthdays:

5/17—Pat Hays

5/25—Dee Obrochta

6/27—Karen Coulter

6/22—Lori Linck

June Meeting: Potluck with program "Jelly From Flowers"

Antioch Garden Club member Stacy Vogt will teach members how to utilize flowers, herbs and fruits in making a sweet treat. You will learn how to make jams and jellies, and take the intimidation factor out of this rewarding process. Different techniques will be taught including canning and freezer methods, and the pros and cons of each.

June Hospitality (Desserts) & Raffle: Nancy Zitkus, hostess, with Betty Collins, Jane Buck, and Chris Priller.

CALENDAR

May 12—Culver's Share Night Fundraiser, 5-8 p.m., Antioch

May 17—ANNUAL PLANT SALE, Williams Park, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; plant drop-off 8 a.m., volunteers arrive at 8 a.m. Wear your shirts!

June 14—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 Countdown!

Yikes, our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 17th is right around the corner now. By the way, we're in a much smaller pavilion, hopefully, just for this year.

I have pots and trays for future sales, but please keep collecting them yourselves for future years. Bring your potted houseplants, herbs, veggies and perennials in containers wiped-clean. **Every pot needs an ID Craftstix** labeled with info to include: Name of plant, sun requirements (full sun, part shade, shade), flower color. Write on only one side of the craftstix. We'll add the price on the opposite side.

IMPORTANT: If you suspect/know that your soil has jumping worms, PLEASE do not bring them to our sale! AGC cannot be the source of this invasive pest to our buyers.

Baked goods can be packaged in smaller lots, possibly in plastic deli boxes. Questions about the bake sale can be referred to Norma Lucansky or Pat Hays.

Also, donate clean, gently-used, garden-related books, planters, and garden décor. No plastic pots, please.

Deliver your plants/items to the southeast corner of the smaller Williams Park pavilion. The south entrance will be for the public to line up. **Deliver plants from 8-9:30 a.m., no later.** Much work needs to be accomplished before the 10 a.m. stampede. We'll need "all hands on deck!"

Parking: The lot is too small for our cars. We need that space for our buyers. Park along the road from the library or towards the train depot. Around 11 a.m., you'll have time to bring yours closer to the pavilion.

You can pick plants for yourselves. Bring a box or bin to store them along the west fence by the pool. Pay the cashier once the big rush subsides. (Pay full price if taken before noon, when half-price takes effect.) Don't walk past the public with purchases as they wait in line until we open at 10 a.m.

We'll cover the picnic tables with tablecloths first. **We need about six people to get this done right away!** ID signs will be attached to the tables (sun, hostas, etc.), Plants will be priced and delivered to the proper tables. Plant ID descriptions will be placed into pots. A brief meeting/group photo takes place at 9:50 a.m. I'll have green aprons available to wear. We clean up and head home around 1 p.m.

*A lunch of complimentary pizza/sandwiches is arranged for a noon break!

PLEASE **bring your red wagons/carts to help buyers** with multi-pot purchases. Wagon/carts are needed to transport plants from arrival to the proper tables and to buyers' cars.

A local beekeeper will be there to give 10 percent of his profits to our club, so please stock up on honey, lotions, and scented waxes. These make great gifts. A garden/household tool sharpener will be able to get your items re-edged and he will also share his profits with the club. Tell your friends and neighbors. Come and enjoy the camaraderie, knowledge, and enthusiasm of your fellow gardeners. See you there!

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

Antioch Garden Club General Mtg. Minutes April 12, 2025



WELCOME: President Holly Swehla, President

CALL TO ORDER: 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance & Garden Clubs of Illinois pledge: This is located on page 64 of your yearbook & on the back of your name tag.

Secretary's Report: Meeting Minutes of March 8th were approved and are published in the April issue of *The Garden Dirt*.

Treasurer's Report: Lana reported the current report has been filed for audit and is published in the April issue of *The Garden Dirt*.

Correspondence: Chris reported we received another Scholarship application, along with another credit card application. Scholarship application has been given to Jennifer; credit card application has been shredded.

Standing Committee Reports

Audit: Norma L./Dee O. No report

Bylaws: Judy C. Reported Bylaws revisions are completed. They will be read at the May Meeting and published in *The Garden Dirt*.

Historian: Joyce K. Received two items for the History book.

Horticulture: Judy C. Thank you to everyone who showed up for the Spring Clean Up. The Mini Park is done. Mark **May 3** as Planting Day. No news on mulch at this time. **Maintenance Sign-up sheets** are being passed around. Please sign up for at least one week (Sunday through Saturday). Blue Star needs to be closely monitored; root water here. Bring your yearbooks to help identify plants. An email will be sent out letting members know when the Horticulture members are there. Holly & Judy will be shopping for plants, especially more natives for the Mini Park.

Hospitality: Sharon P. Thank you to Collette, Joanne, Lana, & Elizabeth for the great food we will be sharing at today's meeting. **FYI** Please put your chairs away before leaving. We are responsible for clean up. *Lead* – Please remind your team of the date they hostess. *Host/Hostess* – If you can't make your date please find a substitute.

Membership: Jennifer reported 37 members, seven guests, and six new members were present today. New members will be installed next month. Welcome to all our new members.

Nominating: **WE NEED A NEW TREASURER. PLEASE SEE HOLLY OR LANA IF INTERESTED.** Lana has done this for three terms. If you can balance your checkbook, you can balance the club's account per Lana.

Philanthropy/Arbor Day: Jane B. The Club is donating a Swamp White Oak to Thelen Park. The tree planting is taking place April 25, 1 p.m., at Thelen Park (on Rena Ave). A Garden Club Plaque will be installed acknowledging the Garden Club.

—Minutes, continued on page 6

March AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer

March 31, 2025

Beginning Bank Balance					\$ 9,710.93
Disbursements Cleared					
	Check #	Paid to	Committee		
2/3/2025	1272	Dist IX, GCI	District luncheon		330.00
2/4/2025	1273	Dist IX, GCI	District luncheon		55.00
3/11/2025	1278	Cindy Cartner	Plant sale		114.25
3/11/2025	1279	Barb Gollwitzer	Hospitality - March		25.00
3/19/2025	1280	Nancy Colby	Publicity		112.33
				Total	\$ 636.58
Deposits					
		From			
3/4/2025		Deposit	Plant Sale - Heartland Bank Sponsorship		750.00
3/19/2025		Deposit	Raffles - March		66.00
3/19/2025		Deposit	Annual Dues		330.00
3/19/2025		Deposit	Donation - Sally Rodgers		500.00
				Total	\$ 1,646.00
Ending Bank Balance 3/31/25					\$ 10,720.35
Disbursements Outstanding					
3/8/2025	1277	University of Illinois Extension	Programs - March		150.00
				Total	\$ 150.00
Ending Book Balance 3/31/25					\$ 10,570.35

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

That forecast May 17 is 74 degrees, and cloudy. I'll take our chances. We've been lucky so far.

My wish for our club is to reach as many gardeners as we can! The wheels are in motion. I love us!

I need to lay low for a few days to get over COVID. My heartfelt apologies to anyone who gets it from me. UUUUUGGGGHHH!!!!!!

For the love of gardening!



—Holly Swehla, President

Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby, Publicity

Spring Cleanup Day

Outstanding, members! What a great job of pulling together to pull out the old and prepare for the new. I can't report for the Hort Committee, but I can report the day in pictures and here they are:



Lots of smiling faces. Missing from this is Pat Hays. She had to leave right before we took the picture. Sorry, Pat.



Shirley Mae volunteered to clean up after canine visitors to the Mini Park. Her disclaimer: "It's not mine!"



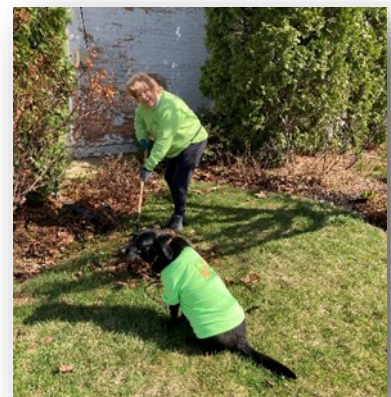
Yes indeed, progress is being made here, folks.



How many gardeners does it take to assemble a peony frame??



The results are in:
Peony frame 1 Gardeners 0



Holly, our ever-smiling president!



Carol Zwiazek, Nancy Colby and Shirley Mae were on the streets during the Shamrock Jam event.

Any time is a good time to walk around, visit with people and share information about the garden club and plant sale.



Save the Date!



July 20, 2025 1-4 p.m.

30th Anniversary Party!

Plan to be there!

Details in the coming months.

See more news and photos online! For photos of the Spring Planting Event, and the Arbor Day tree planting and dedication, go to the Antioch Garden Club website at <https://antiochgardenclub.org/> and check out our Facebook page. **Tip** — Our page on Facebook is [Antioch Garden Club — Antioch, IL](#). You don't have to be a member of Facebook to look at our page.

—*Minutes, continued from p. 3*

Please attend & wear your Green. Tom Shaughnessy will be providing coffee & donuts. In addition, the club is donating the book ***How Can I Help? Saving Nature with Your Yard*** by Douglas Tallamy. Chris will deliver this book on Tuesday, April 15.

Programs: Sue U. Our May 10th Program is **Illinois Invasive Species**. Holly told us Oak Ridge Apartments would like a small program on indoor plants or small planters. This will be discussed at a later date. If anyone has ideas or can organize this please let Holly know.

Publicity: Nancy C. Being out in the public eye has helped to get new members, as well as spread knowledge of what the club does. The CLC Seed Expo & Shamrock Jam have brought in several new members. We will also be participating in the 4th of July Parade.

Newsletter: Jayna announced **April 21** as the deadline for articles.

Website: Lana. Website has been updated. Stacy V. will be helping with updates.

Yearbook: Elizabeth V. Needs all updates, changes, etc. by the end of June. We need a better definition of committees and what they do, Current list of committee chairs, updated list of members. Also need correct meeting dates, event dates, and list of programs. Chris P. is also on this committee. If anyone else wants to join, please contact Elizabeth.

Facebook: Nancy C. & Holly S. Continue to maintain Facebook. Please send any relative photos to Nancy.

Scholarship: Jennifer W. We have six applications to date. The committee will be meeting to choose a winner. Scholarship award is a bit larger this year due to Dennis Downes leaving us a donation.

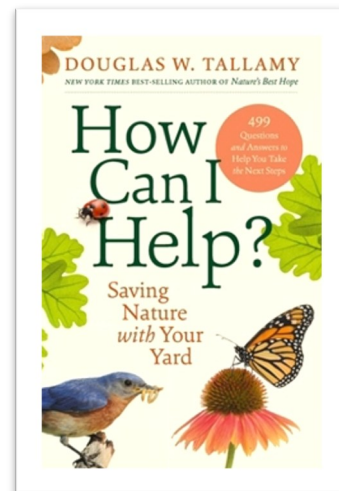
Special Projects

Wreath Decorating: Mary Y. Nothing yet as this is a November Program.

Monarch Initiative: Barb G. Waiting for budget to design and plan a 80-foot garden area near the fence at the Police Dept. Talking with Judy C. to add pollinators to village gardens. Genoa City Public Library has a large pollinator garden if anyone is interested in seeing one.

Blankets for Open Arms Mission: Mary Y. We have a \$200 budget for supplies. Mary has purchased some supplies from JoAnne Fabrics. More information will be posted closer to this February project.

Other Projects: Mary Y. The **Stretching Class** presented by Occupational Therapist Edan Koopman, of Athletico, was well-attended and very informative. **Rock Snake** – Keep painting those rocks, which will make up our Community Snake in a garden.



—*Minutes, continued on page 7*

Horticulture Committee Report by Judy Caldwell

Phew! This is a crazy busy time for gardeners. Always on my mind is the plant sale. Digging up bluebells (they're coming up all over). But they are a spring ephemeral and will be cut down after they finish their display.



My crew had a very productive work day. Tuesday, we planted a new juniper by the Mini Park bench, replacing overgrown grass. Also, a large columbine was moved, and the heuchera repositioned. Please be sure to check if enough water is getting on these while on maintenance duty. Also, check the new (last year) calamentha shrubs (3) in front of the wisteria in the Mini Park.

We placed stepping stones to make weeding and trash removal easier, and we cut back the Russian sage in that area. Collette will get the pots looking beautiful next week.

We then moved to the Seven Son garden and berm. The grasses were cut down. The drain was cleaned up by the swale and trash picked up. I hope to work on those gardens next week. The grass is invading due to improper edging techniques. If you find time to edge on your maintenance week, do NOT throw grass (and roots) back into the garden.

Cindy has been diligently doing spring pruning and fertilizing the roses. We also top-dressed some plants with the sheep manure provided by Mary. A call was made to the village to pick up bags. Speaking of bags ... if you need a yard waste bag for maintenance chores, you can message me. Trash goes in village trash cans. Any questions on maintenance, message me. Now to tackle the mess on my dining room table ...

Happy gardening!

—**Minutes**, *continued from p. 6*

Sheep Manure – Waiting for delivery. Will notify when ready for pick-up. **Student Volunteers** – Seven have signed up. Mary continues to work with NHS in hopes of getting more.

Ways & Means: Barb G. Waiting for confirmation from Culver's. Should have follow-up in May. Any other suggestions for places that participate in this type of fundraiser please let Barb know.

Meeting paused for program: Dr. Andy Plasz is a Rosarian and has been a member of the American Rose Society since 1976. Dr. Plasz explained how roses are judged, showed us various photos of both winners and losers, along with various ways to display roses in containers.

This was a very interesting & informative program. The club purchased a copy of the book "*International Principles of Exhibiting & Judging Roses*" for the club's library. If anyone is interested, there is a Rose Show June 21st at Kenosha Museum.



—Minutes, continued on page 8

News Briefs

- ♦ **Congratulations!** Javier Sanchez is the winner of the Nancy Zitkus scholarship. He graduated from Warren Township High School and will be attending the University of New England in Maine. His major will be Environmental/Marine Science. Future plans include focus on environmental law degree.
- ♦ **New members:** Welcome to Michelle Goldstein, Myrta Tiernan, June Miller, Trina Zimmer, Cris Crego and Carla Podrasky! Happy to have you!
- ♦ **Culver's Share Night May 12:** Tell your friends, bring your neighbors! Our first share night fundraiser at the Antioch Culver's will be 5-8 p.m., May 12. Wear your Antioch Garden Club shirts and come on out. We can always use more volunteers to greet customers. Volunteers must wear closed-toe shoes and be there by 4:45 p.m. A percentage of the restaurant's profits will be donated to the club, to be used for the 30th anniversary celebration.



Javier Sanchez

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—*Minutes*, continued from p. 7

Plant Sale: Cindy C. This is our BIG Fundraiser. Last year netted \$4,000. **Date: May 17.** Flyers have been distributed and are posted on Facebook and our website. This year we will be in the North Pavilion by the swimming pool, due to work at the other pavilion. Parking is at the Skate Park. Please let Cindy know what you are bringing. Every plant must be labeled (stick) with name, bloom color (if any), other pertinent information. The back side of the stick will have the price. We meet at 8 a.m. for set-up, etc. Sale starts at 10 a.m. and is usually done by 1 p.m. Nancy has arranged for lunch for us. Thank you Pat H. & Norma L.! They will be running the bake sale this May 10 meeting,



Mary Yott shows off Doriss, the rock snake, the club's newest community project in the Mini Park. Everyone is invited to paint their own rock to add to Doriss!

Old Business: We continue to collect Socks for Soles for Open Arms Mission.

New Business: Antioch Lions Club will once again be donating \$2,000 to the club. The Methodist Church is looking to purchase or receive donations of plants for their pollinator garden.

Announcements: April 17, Antioch Public Library, is the Mike Nowak program. There is no cost but you must register through the library. **May 1** is Puzzle Palooza at Lake Villa Caboose Park. This is a fundraiser to help local women through education. Contact Nancy Zitkus for more information.

Raffle: \$80 was made in today's raffle.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Priller, Secretary

THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

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