



THE GARDEN DIRT

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Website: [Antiochgardenclub.org](https://antiochgardenclub.org)

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



President's Column

Wow did this summer fly! Is it just me? Fall cleanup was supposed to be Oct. 4, and it seemed like it was too soon. Too many things were still blooming, so we postponed. I don't feel like the flowers are ready to sleep. It's really difficult to predict the weather so far out. We pick the dates waaaaay in advance for the yearbook!

We have recently discussed "leaving the leaves." As I write this, I am thinking when we do reschedule, we will have a much lighter cleanup than ever before. I would prefer to wait for minimum cleanup until AFTER a killing frost.

One of our newest members, George Weckbacher, has generously volunteered to be the Horticulture Committee Chairman! George will be bringing a fresh perspective to the gardens! Thanks George! We look forward to working with you.

We will be canvassing the membership for all positions starting soon. This starts the nominating process.

In June, the new positions get filled. In May, the nominees are presented and voted upon. In April, nominees are selected!

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

Birthdays:

10/9—Nancy Colby

10/13—Betty Sprovieri

10/26—George Weckbacher

10/27—Jill Monfre

10/30—Michelle Goldstein

October Meeting: Program "Don't Squash the Bug," by James Rowan.

Did you know, there are more than a million species of insects and spiders on the planet, with about 25,000 in Illinois.

In this program, we will meet some of our insect friends, learn how to distinguish them and separate some of the "good guys" from the "bad guys."

October Hospitality & Raffle: Mary Yott, hostess, with Nancy Colby, Stacy Vogt and Michelle Goldstein.

CALENDAR

Oct. 11—General Mtg. 1 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center (formerly the Antioch Village/Senior Center), doors open 12:30 p.m.

Oct. 22—Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center

Nov. 19—General Meeting, 1 p.m., Dolly Spiering 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-Jennifer Wittenberg *The Garden Dirt* is published electronically nine times a year, emailed to members and posted online:

<https://antiochgardenclub.org/>

Member Garden Views

Remember, share your garden photos for our website! We all love to see each other's beautiful gardens! Here are some photos currently featured on the website. Go here for more: <https://antiochgardenclub.org/members-sharing>



Top left—Cindy Cartner's garden.
Bottom left—Dee Obrochta's milk-week. Above—Lana Svitak's wild bergamot. Below, Jayna Legg's dahlias.



News Briefs

- ♦ **Greeting cards for members:** Dee Obrochta has volunteered to take over the duties of sending out cards—if you know of a member who needs a sympathy, get well or well wishes card, please let her know.
- ♦ **Committee chair openings:** We need a new Ways and Means Committee chair.
- ♦ **Volunteer Hours:** Remember to track your volunteer hours—in our gardens, at events, etc.—and report them to Donna Rieter, jdrieter@sbcglobal.net.
- ♦ **Monthly board meetings** (see yearbook for schedule) - all are welcome. Chairpersons are asked to report on their committees, but not expected to if their committee isn't currently active (think plant sale).

Antioch Garden Club General Meeting Minutes Sept. 13, 2025



WELCOME: President Holly Swehla, President **CALL TO ORDER:** 1:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance & Garden Clubs of Illinois: This is located on Page ii of your yearbook.

Meeting paused for Program: Alyse Burman of The Wildbird Shack gave a wonderful presentation on *Owls of Illinois*. This was a very informative session complete with videos & sound clips. We learned there are four owls common to our area, (Great Horned, Barn Owls, Barred Owls, Eastern Screech Owls) and that their eye color indicates the time of day they hunt. Thanks to Alyse.

Hospitality: Chair Sharon Pendergast was absent this meeting but a delicious spread was provided by all members. Our hostesses were Lana Svitak, Dee Obrochta, Norma Lucansky, and Barb Gollwitzer. Thanks to everyone for all the goodies provided. October hosts are Mary Yott, Nancy Colby, Stacey Vogt, and Michelle Goldstein.

Secretary's Report: Chris Priller reported the Board Minutes of 8/27/25 were approved by Holly and forwarded to board members. Parks & Recreation has been discussing initiating a rental fee for the Dolly Spiering Center. Chris provided extensive documentation to Parks & Recreation indicating all the garden club does and contributes to the village. One of our more impressive contributions is our service volunteer hours, based on approximately \$35 per hour, generated approximately \$93,100 for the past year. Their response was the fees will be implemented for private rentals (birthday parties, etc). If, in the future, they decide groups will need to pay also, they will give us ample time for discussion for us to make other plans.

Treasurers Report: Jennifer Wittenberg was absent. Current Treasurer's Report is published in the September *Garden Dirt*.

Correspondence: A Scholarship Fund Statement was received from Heartland Bank. This was given to the president in Jennifer's absence. Any other current mail was junk mail and shredded.

Standing Committee Reports

Audit: Norma Lucansky reported all has been verified and is in balance. A detailed document was given to Chris Priller. It will be filed with the current meeting minutes.

Historian: Joyce Kufalk reminded us to provide her with any photos, articles, etc. to be filed in the book.

Horticulture: Judy Caldwell has resigned as chair. Thanks, Judy, for all the years and knowledge you have given this committee. There was a discussion on skipping Fall Cleanup this year as insects, etc., over-winter there. The majority is for this. Holly will check with other garden clubs to see what they are doing. One suggestion was to put up a sign indicating this is Nature's Overwintering Home. Further discussion needed. George Weckbacher has volunteered to chair the Horticulture Committee. Holly and Judy will be exchanging information with him. Thanks George!

—Minutes, continued on page 5

August AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Jennifer Wittenberg, Treasurer

August 31st 2025				
Beginning Bank Balance				\$ 10,413.37
Disbursements Cleared				
	Check #	Paid to	Committee	
7/24/2025	1310	Nancy Colby	publicity 30th party	1153.23
8/1/2025	1311	Open Arms Mission	operations	263.77
8/15/2025	1312	USPS	operations	192
8/27/2025	1314	Nancy Colby	publicity rocks for painting at library	48.13
			Total	\$ 1,657.13
Deposits		From		
			Total	\$ -
ending bank	balance 8/31/2025			\$ 8,756.24
Disbursements Outstanding				
8/15/2025	1313	Carol Zwiazek	membership lanyards	144.36
			Total	\$ 144.36
Ending Book	Balance 8/31/2025		Total	\$ 8,611.88

President's Column (continued from p. 1)

Be thinking about what you would like to contribute! If we all do a little bit, the "burden" is divided! Jane Buck has agreed to be chair of the Nominating Committee, with Betty Collins and Jill Monfre completing the committee. Thanks to all of you!



The yearbook inserts are available. Please stop by the membership table to get yours. And please check your personal information and get back to me for additions, corrections, etc. Many thanks to Elizabeth Vogt for the beautiful job on the yearbook!

Remember ... bloom where you are planted!

—**Minutes**, *continued from p. 3*

Membership: Carol Zwiazek reported we had 25 members and 2 guests present today.

Nominating: Jane Buck has agreed to be chair of the committee for the upcoming season. Please consider sharing your talents with the club. The yearbook has descriptions of each position. Committee members include Betty Collins, Jill Monfre, and Holly.

Philanthropy/Arbor Day: No report at this time

Programs: Susan Ullrich reiterated today's program was very enjoyable and we may use this speaker again. Programs are set up for next year. Our December meeting will be a bit different. Wear your holiday P.J.s, eat cookies, drink hot cocoa, and join in a White Elephant gift exchange. Start looking through your "goodies" now!

Publicity: Nancy Colby was rock painting at Fall Fest at our library. Not only is this a civic program we were asked to attend but also a good opportunity to advertise our club. Nancy and Holly will also be handing out brochures at the Fall Wine Walk.

Newsletter: Jayna Legg requests all articles be submitted to her no later than Sept. 24.

Website: Lana Svitak will be updating it this week. Stacey Vogt will be helping Lana and they are hoping to make the website more attractive.

Yearbook: Elizabeth Vogt has resigned from the club. Trina Zimmer has accepted the challenge of yearbook chair. If anyone sees an errors in the yearbook, let Holly know and she will compose a list of changes, errors, etc. The new yearbook inserts were passed out today and look great. One item you may want to add is our website. <HTTPS://antiochgardenclub.org> I added it to page iii in mine.

Facebook: Holly reported we have 538 followers and growing!

Special Projects

Mary Yott was absent today so there are no reports on **Wreath Decorating** (usually in November), **Blankets for Open Arms** (usually in February), or **Dorissssss**. A question was brought up regarding leaving Dorissss out for the winter or not. To be discussed with Mary.

Monarch Initiative: Barb Gollwitzer reported the Antioch Township way station has been planted. Horvath's designed it, Bill from the Township planted it. Township is to maintain it. Barb suggested a Tea Party Viewing next Spring.

The way station at Emmons School is doing great! They are happy to show it but viewing must be arranged through the school. Library also would like us to assist in putting together a small way station. Eastern Red Bud trees are on order for the police department and fire department.



Alyse Burman of The Wildbird Shack gave a wonderful presentation on *Owls of Illinois* at the September meeting.

—**Minutes**, *continued on page 7*

Horticulture Committee Report by George Weckbacher

Understanding Horticulture in Modern Society

Exploring the Role of the Antioch Garden Club

What is Horticulture?

Horticulture is the science and art of growing plants. Horticulture can be practiced on a smaller, personal scale with home gardening. It involves plant propagation, soil management, landscape design, and the care and cultivation of plants for food, beauty, and environmental benefits.



Horticulture's Role in Contemporary Society

Antioch Garden Club supports urban gardening and community gardens that have become increasingly popular. AGC provides colorful plants, maintaining them in small spaces in our village.

AGC works with the Village of Antioch combining resources to improve the aesthetics of underutilized public space. The village allows AGC to design, plant, and maintain five public areas. Combined with the village's own landscaped areas, the AGC-maintained areas offer a touch of nature not usually seen in a small village. AGC plants annuals and perennials for the benefit of the viewer to enjoy. Some of these plants are "native" and others are from distant lands. The plants provide blooms year after year in different seasons.

Benefits of Flower Gardens

- * **Personal Enjoyment:** Flower gardens can offer joy and satisfaction from nurturing plants and witnessing their growth and enjoying their blooms.
- * **Environmental Impact:** Gardens support pollinators like bees and butterflies, improve air quality, and can help reduce urban heat.

—Horticulture, continued on page 7

—*Horticulture*, continued from p. 6



- * **Physical and Mental Health:** Gardening is a physical activity that reduces stress, improves mood, and encourages mindfulness.
- * **Community Engagement:** Sharing flowers, seeds, or gardening tips fosters connections among neighbors and local groups. The club's annual plant sale every May is a big hit in the community.

AGC knows that horticulture is more than just growing plants—it's a way to connect with nature, improve your surroundings, and contribute positively to your community. By starting your own flower garden, you can enjoy its many benefits and play a part in nurturing a greener, more beautiful world.



By joining AGC you can help your community enjoy public spaces throughout the year season by season.

AGC welcomes new members. All the members of AGC are willing volunteers that help each other, help the village, and help the public enjoy nature's beauty. For more information, go to the club's website: <https://antiochgardenclub.org/welcome>

—*Minutes*, continued from p. 5

Plant Sale: Cindy Cartner was absent. No report.

Old Business: We continue to collect Socks for Souls for Open Arms Mission. They are also in need of personal hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.).

New Business: The executive board will be meeting quarterly. There will be some changes/new ideas coming soon.

Raffle: Netted \$65 today

Announcements: Norma Lucansky announced someone is giving away a lot of decanters. Norma also announced Bunco is coming up. Contact Norma for details. Dee accepted the position of sending cards. We still need a Ways & Means chair.

Raffle: Raffle netted \$65.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:40 p.m.



THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

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October