



# THE GARDEN DIRT

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

[www.https://antiochgardenclub.org/](http://www.https://antiochgardenclub.org/)

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



## President's Message

**W**hat happened to September? Wow! Time is whizzing by. I guess that's better than watching the secondhand of the clock tick ticking. Happy the weather has cooled off a bit ... but I'm dreading the upcoming dark and cold! Although I pray we have a "normal" winter and then a "normal" spring. Hopefully, no 70 degrees in February. That really confused me. I tend to hibernate, and that warm weather and then cold again really got to me !

Saturday, Oct. 12th is our October meeting. We are back at The Village Center (formerly the Senior Center).

The October speaker will be Christine (Chris) Cheney, who will present on spring-flowering bulbs. Chris is an amateur gardener and professional educator. She is a Master Gardener as well, and part of the University of Ill. Extension Speakers' Bureau, and she is an active member of the Northbrook Garden Club. She also is a skilled botanical artist.

The issue of tables and chairs has been solved! A deal was struck between the village and the township.

*- President's Message, cont. p. 4*

## Birthdays

10/1—Cheryl Hoke

10/9—Nancy Colby

10/13—Betty Sprovieri

10/27—Jill Monfre

**October Program:** "Spring Flowering Bulbs." With many bloom colors, flowering time, plant heights and shapes, spring bulbs bring much interest to the landscape. Learn how to select, plant, and care for spring bulbs. You will also learn how to plant a bulb garden bursting with color April to June, how to address pests, and how to choose the right bulbs for your needs.

**Welcome** to Viki Chapman and Stacy Vogt! Both joined the club over the summer, in time to get their photos in the yearbook. Say hello next meeting!

**Hospitality:** Hostess Judy Caldwell, with Pat Hays, Kevin McCarty, Susan Ullrich.

## CALENDAR

Oct. 12 — General Mtg., 1 p.m., Antioch Village Center, 817 Holbek Dr., doors open 12:30 p.m.

Oct. 23 — Board Mtg., 6 p.m., Antioch Village Center

Oct. 26 — Fall Cleanup, 9 a.m., Mini-Park, downtown Antioch

Nov. 9 — General Mtg., 1 p.m., Antioch Village Center doors open 12:30 p.m.

The **Antioch Garden Club** is a member of Garden Clubs 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. The *Garden Dirt* is emailed to members and posted online at: [antioch-gardenclub.org](http://antioch-gardenclub.org).

# How to Heel

## Over-winter your divided perennials

No, not bow-wow heel, but how to heel-in plants, trees, and canes. This method can be used to over-winter your divided perennials. It will also give the root ball a longer period to establish and strengthen itself.

A proper site used to store your horticulture is essential. You'll need an area that won't be disturbed until spring, when you'll lift be lifting out the plants. If this area is next to a building, the radiant heat projected will give the plants additional protection.

### For PERENNIALS:

- ⇒ Place plant into pot with adequate drainage, room for root growth, water thoroughly.
- ⇒ Sink pot to top of soil line in your garden site to over-winter. Plants can be left with foliage on or removed. If removed, leave a bit of the stem so you can find it next spring. Water thoroughly.
- ⇒ Cover with at least 4" of thick leaf mulch, lawn clippings, etc.

### For TREES and CANES:

- ⇒ These can be planted in pots, as above, or placed in a trench.
- ⇒ Soak horticulture in water to hydrate for half hour.
- ⇒ Dig a V-shaped trench wide/deep enough for the root ball.
- ⇒ Lay horticulture at an angle into trench, roots covered completely.
- ⇒ Water trench thoroughly, and cover with thick layer of soil.
- ⇒ Cover with at least 4" of thick mulch.

It's better to pot-up anything before overwintering. The plants are easier to dig out in spring, and they don't go thru the shock of being transplanted again. These methods will help get a jump on the development of plants you'll be donating to our club's **Plant Sale Saturday, May 17, 2025**. YouTube videos and Google searches will make this process more clear. It's really not such a RUFF project.

—Cindy Cartner

The Horticulture Committee dug up hostas and Solomon's Seal from the club's gardens in the village and heeled them in at Cindy Cartner's house in late summer.



# Antioch Garden Club, General Meeting Minutes

## Sept. 14, 2024



**WELCOME:** Holly Swehla, President

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND GARDEN CLUB PLEDGE**

**Announcements from Holly:** Building update: Effective 9/24 the Township will be moving all furniture from the Holbeck address to the Township Center. Holly is working with Jeff Nehila, Interim Director, to make sure we have furniture. Holly will keep us updated.

President Holly also requested the red Antioch Ribbon and postcard from Sequoit Creek Park Opening be included in the History Book.

**Meeting paused for Program:** “Blending Herbs to be an Herbal Gourmet,” was presented by Mary Lautman Raleigh of The Backyard Patch.

The meeting was brought back to order after a fabulous Potluck Luncheon.

**Secretary’s Report: Chris Priller.** Minutes were published in *The Garden Dirt*. As there are no corrections, they will be filed.

**Treasurer’s Report: Lana Svitak** May, June, and July reports have been published in *The Garden Dirt*. Having no corrections they will be filed for audit. Proposed 2024-25 Budget has been published in *The Garden Dirt*. Motion accepted by Barb Gollwitzer, seconded by Norma Lukansky.

**Correspondence:** None

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Audit: Norma Lukansky** reported the audit was completed and balanced. She also reminded members to give receipts to Lana.

**Bylaws: Chair Judy Caldwell, Members Jennifer Wittenberg and Lana Svitak**

**Historian: Chair Joyce Kufalk, Member Elizabeth Vogt.** Nothing to report but will add ribbon & postcard to book.

**Horticulture: Judy Caldwell** passed out yearbook size Village Gardens Plant Lists and Garden Illustrations.

**Hospitality:** No report

**Membership: Jennifer Wittenberg** reported 23 members and 1 guest attended today’s meeting. See Membership to pick up your 2024-25 Yearbook. Reminder – Jackie Horneck sends out appropriate cards.

**Nominating: Nancy Zitkus** installed **Lana Svitak** as Treasurer. A gift of a mint was presented to Treasurer Lana.



**Mary Lautman Raleigh, The Backyard Patch, presented a delightful and informative program on “Blending Herbs to be an Herbal Gourmet.”**

—Sept. Minutes, continued on p. 6

# August 2024 AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer

August 30, 2024

<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>					\$ 12,355.38
<b>Disbursements Cleared</b>					
	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Paid to</b>	<b>Committee</b>		
				Total	\$ -
<b>Deposits</b>					
		<b>From</b>			
8/1/2024		Deposit	New Member Dues		30.00
8/1/2024		Deposit	T'shirts/Sweatshirts		112.00
				Total	\$ 142.00
<b>Ending Bank Balance 8/30/24</b>					\$ 12,497.38
<b>Disbursements Outstanding</b>					
				Total	\$ -
<b>Ending Book Balance 8/30/24</b>				Total	\$ 12,497.38

—President's Message, continued from p. 1

## Plans in the works for club's 30th anniversary!

We will have places to sit and tables for our elbows. Phew. One problem solved!

Upcoming event is the District IX Fall Bonus Event 2.o. I went last year and had a wonderful time! Lots of info was shared and absorbed. It's Wednesday, Oct. 23, 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., with dutch treat lunch afterward. I do plan to go. It's at the Northbrook United Methodist Church.

Concerning our 30th anniversary party 2025—all I'm allowed to say is you all will be absolutely DELIGHTED with the plans. Mum's the word. I asked Nancy Colby if she would spearhead this, and of course she said yes. If you would like to be on the planning committee, please see Nancy.

I want you all to know if I ask you to do something for the club, please know it's OK to say no to me. I never want anyone to feel pressured into doing something they just do not want to do.

Hard to believe, but that's about all I have to say!

*For the love of gardening*

**- Holly Markwart Swehla**





# Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby, Publicity

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

**W**e are confirmed to participate in Festival of Trees again this year. We won 1<sup>st</sup> Place for our *Save the Monarch* tree design last year. Let's make a second 1<sup>st</sup> Place win a goal for this year! The theme for this year's tree is "***Violet the Illinois State Flower.***" To honor the violet, the tree will be decorated in purple with a splash of white and silver. The festival is Dec. 6-21.

## VIOLETS ANYONE?

If you have any purple decorations you aren't going to be using, please donate to our stash of decorations. The donations can be purple ornaments, purple violets (real or silk) and anything else violet-themed.

Nancy Colby is collecting decorations for the tree, so please reach out if you have anything. Thanks.



## KRINGLE VILLAGE

For the first time, we will have a tree in Kringle Village. The decorated trees will be on display from Thanksgiving through New Year's. The trees are voted on by the public. We can win this, too! Details soon.

## CHRISTMAS PARADE

Calling all wheelbarrows! We are going to be in the Christmas Parade this year. Yes we are! The parade is at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 29 in Antioch. Anyone and everyone can participate! I'm envisioning all of us wearing our green sweatshirts (that is of course if you have one) and pushing wheelbarrows. You do not have to wear a club sweatshirt to participate, and you do not have to push a wheelbarrow. It would be cool to have many of us wearing the green and pushing a wheelbarrow. We will have the garden club banner leading our way and need four people to hold that so there is something for everyone. It is possible we will have poinsettias to pass out to the crowd, too. More details will be shared as we get closer to the date.

## SWEATSHIRTS

If you've been thinking of getting a garden club sweatshirt for the cooler weather coming soon, now is the time. They are \$24 and available if you want one. They're cozy.

T-shirts are also still available for \$20. See Nancy Colby.



—Sept. Minutes, continued from p. 3

## Committee to be formed to plan club's 30th anniversary

**Philanthropy/Arbor Day:** Joan Buck reported a tree was donated to Vern Thelen Park. A Garden Club sign will be posted at the tree.

**Programs:** Susan Ullrich announced October's presentation will be "Spring Flowering Bulbs."

**Publicity:** Nancy Colby spoke about the village Thanksgiving parade & suggested we wear our signature sweatshirts as we push wheelbarrows. More information upcoming. Nancy also suggested *Papa's Sweet Shop* has a stand at our Plant Sale.

**Newsletter:** Jayna Legg announced deadline for newsletter articles is Sept. 26.

**Website:** Lana Svitak The website has been updated with the correct meeting address. If any errors are noted on the website, please notify Lana.

**Yearbook:** Elizabeth Vogt asked members inform her of any updates.

**Facebook:** Holly reminded us our private page is for Members Only.

**Scholarship:** No report

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Monarch Initiative :** Barb Gollwitzer reported AGC has donated \$500 to Emmons School towards their Native Garden/Waystation. She introduced Superintendent Janean Freidman who will continue to update us with progress & hopes to join us at our Spring meeting.

**Wreath Decorating:** Mary Yott. Any useable decoration donations will be accepted. Mary suggested larger wreaths should go to Public Service buildings. Suggested an Annual Recognition Wreath to go to a local business. Polson's was the recipient last year – Chicago Red Hots was suggested for this year, as it suffered a fire.

Mary reminded us of the Open Arms blanket project. There is a possibility of personal care gift bags this year.

**Ways and Means:** Barb G. No report.

**Plant Sale:** Cindy Cartner. No report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business :** Holly is looking to form a Party Planners Committee for our club's 30<sup>th</sup> year gala. Sign-up will be at the next meeting.

Mary Yott suggested we invite scholarship winners back to a meeting to tell us how they are doing in their field.

**Announcements:** Holly commented on how beautiful all the gardens are looking. She passed out information on the *Master Naturalist Program* offered by the U of I Extension Service, also.

**Raffle** was held.

No further business; Meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Chris Priller, Secretary*



# Horticulture Committee Report



## Leave the leaves!

Fall is upon us. Soon we'll be readying our gardens for their winter rest. A warm blanket of leaves will help newly-planted and established perennials survive drying winds and severe cold temps.

Leaf litter and spent material play an important role in the life cycle of butterflies, moths, bees and birds. Many pollinators over-winter in leaf litter, and some use hollow plant stems as nesting sites.

**Clearwing moths** and **Luna moths**, climb down from their host plants and pupate in the soil, forming sturdy cocoons that blend in with the leaf litter. Individuals that pupate late in the season will over-winter beneath the leaves and emerge as adults the following spring.

The **Baltimore Checkerspot** caterpillar over-winters in leaf litter. Near the end of October fully grown caterpillars that have not yet entered the pupal stage, move out of their web and into the leaf litter, where they roll up in leaves and debris to hibernate through the winter.

**Mason** and **Leafcutter bees** use the hollow stems of previous year's plants, such as Joe Pye Weed for their nests. The solitary female bee provides food in her nest with food for the offspring.

Some can't get past the untidy, yet natural, appearance of leaving the leaves. Those might consider a compromise by clearing debris just from the front yard area gardens, while leaving unseen backyard areas natural. You could rake some back against your home's foundation also.

Mother Nature has a plan, and it's been working fine since day one. Let her work her magic!

*-Cindy Cartner*

## News Briefs

- \* **Volunteer hours:** Remember to track hours you volunteer to the club and report to Donna Rieter, [jdrieter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdrieter@sbcglobal.net). The club accumulated 910 hours from February through August alone. These hours are important because they represent the value the club adds to the community.
- \* The **Horticulture Committee** reminds members the **FALL CLEANUP** will be Saturday, Oct. 26. We gather at 9 a.m. at the Mini-Park, on Main St. in Antioch by the Art Foundation. Bring your garden gloves, rakes and other tools and a can-do attitude, and we'll get it done! Usually we go out to eat after.



SPRING CLEANUP 2024 Crew

## **THE GARDEN DIRT**

### **ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB**

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, Il 60002



# October