



# THE GARDEN DIRT

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Website: [Antiochgardenclub.org](http://Antiochgardenclub.org)

Facebook: Antioch Garden Club-Antioch IL



## President's Column

**S**unny windy greetings!  
To me, this is how winter should be, except we really need snow.

I want to be the first to officially congratulate the club on its 30th anniversary! Thirty years ago, there was a dream ... many before us created our beautiful gardens. We get **SO** many compliments each time we are in the gardens working to beautiful our little town.

I love us! I enjoy each and every one of us for our individual contributions to the club. We got a good thang goin' on ... thanks to each of you!

Someone asked me the other day how I would feel if 37 more gardeners joined the club. I think she thought I would be horrified. Ha! I would LOVE it! The more the merrier.

Now is the time to winter sow. Please let me know if you have questions.

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

## Birthdays:

2/9—Nancy Zitkus

2/16—Cindy Cartner

2/26—Stacy Vogt

**February Meeting: First annual Roundtable and Soup Fest.** We will share a bowl of hot soup and some interesting gardening conversations. Bring your gardening questions, articles of interest, favorite tools, etc. This will be a chance to socialize and learn from each other.

## February Hospitality & Raffle:

**Betty Sprovieri**, hostess, with Jayna Legg, Jill Monfre & Vicki Chapman.

**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 Feb. 26. They are at the Antioch Village Center.

## CALENDAR

**Feb. 8—General Meeting, 1 p.m., Antioch Village Center, 817 Holbek Dr., doors open 12:30 p.m.**

**Feb. 26—Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Antioch Village Center**

**March 8—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 Photo Album

Enjoy these photos of the club's 2nd annual no-sew fleece blanket project for Open Arms. Thanks Mary Yott for organizing and shopping, and Nancy Colby for pre-cutting all the fleece! More photos can be found on the club's website and Facebook page.

Chris Priller checks out President Holly's progress. In conjunction with this project Sharon Pendergast spearheaded collecting items to make care packages for Open Arms patrons.



Ten members gathered at the library Jan. 30 to make tie blankets. Others made blankets at home and dropped them off. It went a lot faster this year thanks to Nancy Colby pre-cutting the fabric beforehand! The fleece patterns Mary Yott picked out were striking and colorful.



# Antioch Garden Club General Mtg. Minutes Dec. 14, 2024

**WELCOME:** Holly Swehla, President

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:01 p.m.



## **Pledge of Allegiance and Garden Club Pledge**

**Meeting** paused for program. **Susan Ullrich** introduced *Tamara Block*, who presented a most informative program about *The Twelve Traditions of Christmas at the White House*. Tamara gave us a history of traditions starting in 1870 through present day. A perfect program for the season.

The meeting was resumed after a warming luncheon of various soups, hearty breads, cookies, and punch. Thank you to this month's hostesses **Mary Yott, Nancy Colby, Stacy Vogt, & Carol Zwiazek**.

**Secretary's Report:** **Chris Priller** reported there was a change in the wording of last months meeting minutes. Under Publicity it should read "*New AGC Business Cards were distributed to members to be passed out to potential AGC members.*" This has been corrected in *The Garden Dirt*. If there are no additional corrections the minutes will be filed.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Lana Svitak** reported the current report has been published in *The Garden Dirt*. Having no corrections they will be filed for audit.

**Correspondence:** **Chris** reported there were four pieces of mail in the P.O. Box. Two were credit card applications; one was a library flyer. One was a U of I tax document, which was turned over to Lana Svitak.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

**Audit:** No report

**Bylaws:** No report

**Historian:** No report

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

**Horticulture:** No report

**Membership:** Attendance included 25 members, two guests, and one presenter.

**Nominating:** No report

**Philanthropy/Arbor Day:** No report

**Programs:** **Susan Ullrich** reported February's meeting will be a *Soup Fest & Roundtable*. Bring your gardening questions, articles of interest, favorite tools, etc. This will be an opportunity to socialize and learn from each other.

**Publicity:** **Nancy Colby** thanked everyone who participated in the parade. It was a success!

**Nancy & Joan Vitello** decorated our **Kringle Tree**. Make sure to stop by, check it out, and VOTE for #39.

——Minutes, continued on page 7

# AGC Nov. 30 Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Lana Svitak, Treasurer

<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>				\$ 10,858.18
<b>Disbursements Cleared</b>				
	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Paid to</b>	<b>Committee</b>	
10/12/2024	1258	University of Illinois Extension	Programs - October	150.00
11/9/2024	1261	Joyce Kufalk	Hospitality - October	7.91
11/9/2024	1262	Nancy Colby	Public Relations	32.91
11/9/2024	1264	Impressions Count	Yearbook	20.00
11/9/2024	1265	Elizabeth Vogt	Yearbook	4.00
11/9/2024	1266	Alyce Berman	Programs - November	224.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 438.82</b>
<b>Deposits</b>				
		<b>From</b>		
11/19/2024		Deposit	Raffles - October & November	133.00
11/19/2024		Deposit	T'shirts/Sweatshirts	73.00
11/19/2024		Deposit	Festival of Trees refund	50.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 256.00</b>
<b>Ending Bank Balance 11/30/24</b>				<b>\$ 10,675.36</b>
<b>Disbursements Outstanding</b>				
11/9/2024	1263	Holly Swehla	Hospitality	26.81
			<b>Total</b>	
<b>Ending Book Balance 11/30/24</b>				<b>\$ 10,648.55</b>



## 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 2025 University of Illinois Lake & McHenry Counties Extension Master Gardener Seed Expo will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 8, 2025, at the College of Lake County, Grayslake, Ill.



## AGC Dec. 31 Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>					\$ 10,675.36
<b>Disbursements Cleared</b>					
	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Paid to</b>	<b>Committee</b>		
11/9/2024	1263	Holly Swehla	Hospitality		26.81
12/14/2024	1267	Tamara Block	Programs - December		294.00
12/14/2024	1268	Mary Yott	Hospitality - December		15.38
12/14/2024	1269	Mary Yott	Wreath Decorating		886.25
				Total	\$ 1,222.44
<b>Deposits</b>					
		<b>From</b>			
12/24/2024		Deposit	T-shirts/Sweatshirts		50.00
12/24/2024		Deposit	Raffles - December		72.00
				Total	\$ 122.00
<b>Ending Bank Balance 12/31/24</b>					\$ 9,574.92
<b>Disbursements Outstanding</b>					
12/31/2024	1270	Lake County Extension Found	Seed Expo		25.00
				Total	\$ 25.00
<b>Ending Book Balance 12/31/24</b>				Total	\$ 9,549.92

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

Something I learned from the Extension office - to avoid jumping worms from entering your containers, please keep them 18 inches off the ground.

Please be thinking about fresh ideas, your thoughts about growing the club, and what piece of the pie you would consider doing. We REALLY need a treasurer.

As of November 30, 2024, we recorded 1,321 volunteer hours. The going rate for hours is \$33.49 per hour. That's a whopping \$44,253 dollars we have contributed to the beautification of our town. So, when you think about your contribution, know that there is strength in numbers. Please consider adding your numbers.

One day closer to spring!

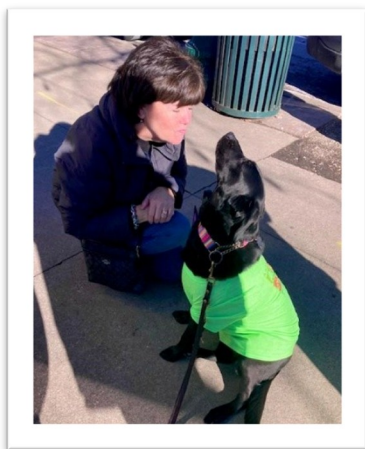
Yours Truly, Hol

P.S. Bloom where you are planted!



# Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby, Publicity

## Winter Wine Walk



In these three photos provided by Nancy Colby—Carol, Holly and Nancy stand by in the Mini Park with flyers as Shirley Mae tells everyone who stopped by all the great things about the Antioch Garden Club. It was a chilly day, but visitors to the park were, of course, having fun!



**I**t was a mere 11 degrees on that Saturday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> morning but the Antioch Garden Club was out there! The Winter Wine Walk started at noon.

Dressed in their Antioch Garden Club shirts and sweatshirts, over their warm clothing, Holly Markwart Swehla, Carol Zwiazek, Nancy Colby and Nancy's canine Shirley Mae were out there promoting the garden club!

We were stationed on the sidewalk by the Mini Park garden and sharing with the happy (remember, there was wine) crowd. Most people stopped to pet Shirley Mae but we were able to get a flyer in their hand as soon as they stopped petting her.

It was cold but it was fun. People are interested in the garden club, and any time we're out there promoting what we do is a good thing.

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## Top 10 gardening tasks to do while you wait for Spring

**S**o, what to do while you wait, besides pouring over seed catalogs? Here are 10 things to consider to keep you busy until Spring.

1. Evaluate. What grew well last year? What didn't? What are you doing different this year?
2. Start a gardening journal to record your evaluation. Use it to plan new gardens this year.
3. Start an indoor garden. Try succulents, or microgreens, or grow herbs near a sunny window.
4. Grow houseplants if you don't already. Just make sure they aren't poisonous if you have pets.
5. It's maintenance time! Clean and sharpen your tools. You rely on them; maintain them.
6. Since we are lacking snow, build your garden structures. Are you replacing raised beds? Trellises?
7. Continue to compost. Insulate your bin with leaves. Keep adding to it, even when it's frozen.
8. Prune deciduous trees and shrubs. Cut back spent perennial foliage. Leave seed heads for birds.
9. Learn something new. Attend a workshop. Read those books you have. Find a new blog to follow.
10. Get creative. Make plant markers. Build birdhouses or bee hotels. Make stepping stones with a kit.



—Minutes, continued from p. 3



**Nancy** is also planning to represent the garden club at the January 18, 2025 *Antioch Wine Walk*.

**Newsletter:** **Jayna Legg** reported *Jan. 22, 2025* is the deadline for all articles.

**Website:** **Lana S.** reminded members to check out our website. Everything is up to date; however, Lana always appreciates garden-related photos from members.

**Yearbook:** No report

**Facebook:** **Nancy C.** Will be managing the club's Facebook page.

**Scholarship:** No report

### **Special Projects**

**Wreath Decorating:** **Mary Yott** reported it was a FUN day! The wreaths are appreciated by the community. Decoration donations are being accepted for next year.

**Open Arms Blankets:** **Mary** reminded us we will be making no-sew fleece blankets in February. Watch for sales. **Mary** will forward info re: fabric amounts needed. Bring good scissors to this project.

**Monarch Initiative:** No report

**Ways & Means:** No report

**Plant Sale:** **Cindy Cartner** reminded us to mark **May 17, 2025** as our plant sale date.

**Old Business:** **Holly** reported we will continue to collect *Socks for Souls*. The club has donated 28 pairs this year.

**New Business:** There is a chance we can get *Athletico Physical Therapy* to come to a meeting to give us some tips on prepping your body for the garden season. **Barb G.** brought up the possibility of doing a *Culver's* fundraiser. **Judy C.** suggested members bring in magazines relating to gardening to trade or take. They would go on the raffle table starting in February.

**Announcements:** **Holly** reported 156 families participated in today's *Open Arms* gift program. The club may participate next year.

Board Meeting is January 22. Board Members and Chairs are expected to attend or send a report to Holly. Reminder will be sent out. Please R.S.V.P.

Regular Garden Club meeting is Feb. 8. Happy Holidays to all!

**Raffle** brought in a total of \$70 today. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

***Respectfully submitted, Chris Priller, Secretary***

## THE GARDEN DIRT

### ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, IL 60002



February