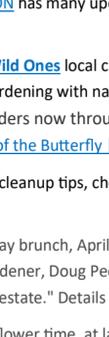




Nasturtium News

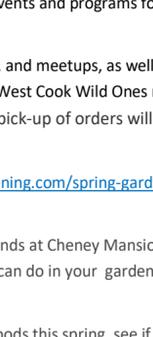
GARDEN CLUB NEWS

- Our annual **General Meeting** will take place by Zoom on **April 14** at 12:30 before our speaker. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. At this meeting we will approve the budget and vote on officers. The budget is attached to the end of the newsletter for your review. The current slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee includes:
 - 1st V.P. Ways & Means - Kathy English & Marilyn Giles
 - 4th V.P. Publicity - Linda Tibensky
 - Treasurer - Carol Gallagher
 - Secretary- Gina Sennello
- In response to the membership views on the current Covid situation, we will not be holding our traditional May luncheon this year. But we look forward to in-person gatherings soon! See below regarding **summer field trips** and the **Garden Walk**.
- SAVE THE DATE AND GET YOUR HAT READY: We look forward to gathering for an outdoor **Membership Welcome-Back Tea** for our first program of the new Garden Club year on September 8. Details to come this summer.



Spring has sprung, inside and out!

Photos by Gina Sennello: backyard blossoms and indoor flowering croton.



IN THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND

- Trailside Museum** trails and grounds are open, and many outdoor events including nature walks and crafts are planned for April.
- Oak Park's own **FOPCON** has many upcoming gardening-related events and programs for children and adults.
- Check out the many **Wild Ones** local chapters for news, programs, and meetups, as well as tips and designs for gardening with native plants. Don't miss the West Cook Wild Ones native plant sale. Pre-orders now through May 18 ; Contact free pick-up of orders will be June 3-5. [2021 Year of the Butterfly | West Cook Wild Ones](#)
- For some great spring cleanup tips, check out: <https://savvygardening.com/spring-garden-clean-done-right/>
- Enjoy a beautiful Sunday brunch, April 11 at 10:30am, on the grounds at Cheney Mansion with expert Estate Gardener, Doug Peck, as he explains what you can do in your garden to turn it into your own "estate." Details [HERE](#).
- It's starting to be wildflower time, at last! While walking in the woods this spring, see if you can spot these flowers using this super-handly photo chart. Although it refers specifically to Indiana, most of the wild flowers will be the same in our part of Illinois and southwestern Michigan. (Thank you, Joan Meister!) indiananature.net/files/IN_Nature_Spring_Wildflowers1
- We received a suggestion from a young reader, Amelia, and her teacher, LouAnne, for an excellent article on growing fragrant herbs. Many of these herb blossoms and leaves can be used as suggested in our Edible Flowers article below. Thanks, Amelia! <https://www.perfume.com/article-growing-fragrant-herbs>

PROGRAMS

Be sure to join us for our monthly Zoom programs. Invitations will be emailed to all members before each meeting. Each member may invite one guest to our Zoom presentations. Just RSVP for 2 people to the program EVITE, and forward the Zoom link to your friend the day before the presentation.

April 14, 2021—BUSINESS MEETING @12:30

Heather Prince – “By the Light of the Moon: An Evening Garden”

Many of us can only enjoy our garden spaces in the evening after a busy day. We'll discuss garden design and delve into the many types of plants that add color and texture to dusk and beyond. heather@fearlessgardening.net



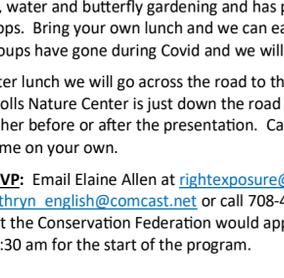
May 12, 2021 (And please note corrected date.)

Dave Brook Presentation "Flying Flowers" Butterfly gardening

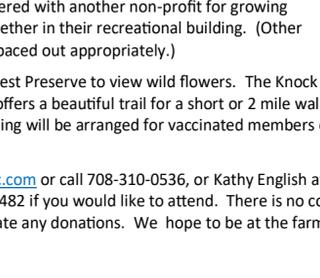
September 8, 2021

Membership Welcome Back Tea Details to come soon.

Spring Angel photo by Kathy English



Cheney Mansion tree photo by Joan Meister



FIELD TRIPS

MAY 7

On May 7 at around 9:30 am we will travel to the 60-acre **McDonald Farm** in Naperville. We'll learn about the farm's history and how it came to be owned by the Conservation Federation which is implementing native landscaping, rainwater harvesting, renewable solar and wind energy, water and butterfly gardening and has partnered with another non-profit for growing crops. Bring your own lunch and we can eat together in their recreational building. (Other groups have gone during Covid and we will be spaced out appropriately.)

After lunch we will go across the road to the Forest Preserve to view wild flowers. The Knock Knolls Nature Center is just down the road and offers a beautiful trail for a short or 2 mile walk either before or after the presentation. Carpooling will be arranged for vaccinated members or come on your own.

RSVP: Email Elaine Allen at rightexposure@mac.com or call 708-310-0536, or Kathy English at kathryn_english@comcast.net or call 708-431-8482 if you would like to attend. There is no cost, but the Conservation Federation would appreciate any donations. We hope to be at the farm at 10:30 am for the start of the program.

JULY 27

SAVE THE DATE: Another field trip is planned for **July 27 – Nettle Creek Lavender Farm** in Morris. Details to follow.

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST GARDEN WALK

SUNDAY, JUNE 21!!

Mark your calendars for the **27th Garden Walk of Oak Park and River Forest**. Enjoy a self-guided tour of unique, private and public gardens. This event funds the scholarships we give annually to OPRF high school students. Since the pandemic has kept us from meeting in person, we have had no other fundraisers. Your support is greatly needed.

As in the past, each member will receive two tickets by mail, to be purchased at the discount price of \$13 each. You can pay for these two tickets at our website using a code (which will be sent later) or by check mailed to the Garden Club (see below). Additional tickets go on sale to Garden Club and FOPCON members May 1st. The general public can purchase them June 1-26 for \$15, and \$20 the day of the Walk if they are still available. Children 12 and under are free. You will provide your own transportation. Biking is a good option.

Soon more information and ticket purchasing will be available on the website at:

[Garden Walk – Garden Club of Oak Park & River Forest \(gcoprf.org\)](#)

To pay for tickets received by mail, or to order additional tickets by mail, please send a check to GCOPRF before June 20th:

GCOPRF
PO BOX 5633
RIVER FOREST, IL 60305

YEAR OF THE BUTTERFLY!!!



We are excited to be participating in the community-wide events related to the Year of the Butterfly. The Year of the Butterfly website is now live and lists many activities throughout the community, so don't miss it! <https://fopcon.org/year-of-the-butterfly/>

Year of the Butterfly events planned by the Garden Club include:

- MAY 7** Trip to **McDonald's Farm** butterfly garden. See details in Field Trips column.
- MAY 12** Zoom GC meeting - "**Butterflies, Flying Flowers.**"
- MAY 22** Information and seed distribution at **Oak Park Farmer's Market** . VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT. Contact Sue Milojevic by emai or cell 708-703-2331.
- JUNE 27** Distribution of 'Butterfly Life Cycle' craft kits at Garden Walk. Contact [Cherie Fedota](#).
- JUNE 27** Information on pollinator gardens at Garden Walk. Contact [Joan Meister](#).
- TBD** Tour of Butterfly Garden at Dominican University. Contact [Joan Meister](#)

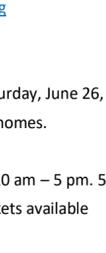
The committee is open to other ideas you may have. Contact any of the members listed above.

EDIBLE FLOWERS

By Cherie Fedota, Scholarship Chair

Try adding a few flowers to your dinner menu. Use only fresh flowers from your garden which were grown without pesticides. Do not use flowers from a florist. Not all flowers are edible, but here are some that you might choose:

- When making a salad, add a few colorful flowers as a garnish. You can use borage, nasturtium, pansy, violet, lilac, chive blossoms.
- As a little appetizer, spread some cream cheese on a cracker and top with a pansy.
- Try dropping a small flower in a glass of sparkling wine.
- Freeze flower petals in ice cubes. Fill the ice tray half full. Drop in a flower, freeze. remove from the freezer and fill the rest of the way and refreeze. Try rose petals with the white end cut off, violets, lavender flowers or mint leaves.
- Don't try eating them from a little flower pen vase! ➡

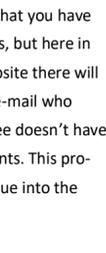


BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

By Irene Williams, GCI Representative

Members may have driven by the distinctive Blue Star Memorial By-Way markers dotted throughout cities and highways across the nation without realizing their origins and what they represent. Originated in 1944 all men and women that served in the United States Service, the program began in 1944 with the planting of 8000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945, National Garden Clubs, Inc., adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system of memorial markers that covers thousands of miles across all 50 states. The Blue Star was an icon in World War II and was displayed on flags, banners and in homes on service flags displayed in windows for sons and daughters away at war.

Currently, over 149 markers have been erected by Illinois garden clubs through member donations and civic organizations. The Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest helped sponsor the District II Blue Star placed at Hines Hospital in Maywood in June 1994. A celebration followed honoring veterans, including our veteran members Eileen Krueger and Mary Triska.



For a state-by-state listing of all markers placed around our country, view National Garden Club's site <https://gardenclub.org/blue-and-gold-star-memorials> . There are hundreds!

MORE FROM GARDEN CLUBS OF ILLINOIS:

AMAZON SMILE: If you shop on Amazon, please consider joining Amazon.Smile on smile.amazon.com and choosing The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. as the charity to receive your support. A small percentage of your purchase price is given to GCI by Amazon.Smile. You get the same low prices and great selection as on Amazon with no additional cost to you.

PLANT A TREE: We continue to participate in the National Garden Club project, "Plant America with Trees: Each One, Plant One." Please send information regarding the tree(s) that you have planted to [Irene Williams](#), our GCI rep. The national list will only count native trees, but here in Illinois we are counting all trees and noting which ones are native. On the GCI website there will be a total of trees planted with a note of which ones are native to Illinois. Please e-mail who planted the tree(s), when, where and the species of tree by April 15, 2021. The tree doesn't have to be planted in Illinois. If you have a cabin in Wisconsin and planted a tree, it counts. This project spans Gay Austin's term of office, May 2019-May 2021. It will probably continue into the next term, so keep planting trees and making a list!

PLANT SALES: Please consider supporting our fellow garden clubs with their annual plant sales:

- SCHAUMBURG GARDEN CLUB** Preorder now through April 30, pickup in May. Offering milkweeds, native prairie wildflowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs. www.schaumburggardenclub.org
- GARDEN CLUB OF DOWNERS GROVE** Saturday, May 22, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm , American Legion Post 80, 4000 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, IL. Hostas, perennials, indoor plants, garden & nature crafts.
- LOMBARD GARDEN CLUB** Online Lilac Sale Begins April 12, 2021. <http://www.lombardgardenclub.org>
- TRI-VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB** of Bartlett, Streamwood, and Hanover Park ANNUAL PLANT SALE, Saturday, May 8, 2021, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Location: Bartlett Log Cabin, 211 N. Eastern, Bartlett, IL 60103 – Located in Bartlett Park.
- CRESTVIEW GARDEN CLUB** plant sale, Saturday, May 15, 8:30 a.m.– 1 p.m. Centennial Park, 155 E. St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst. Offering sun and shade perennials, herbs, groundcover, natives PLUS plants to attract birds, bees and butterflies.
- GARDEN CLUB OF HINSDALE:** Perennial, Houseplant, & English Garden Basket Plant Sale. Saturday, May 8, 2021, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kramer Foods, 16 Grant Square, Hinsdale
- BOLINGBROOK GARDEN CLUB** online preorder sale. Drive Thru Plant Pickup by appointment on May 14,15. <https://bolingbrook-gardenclub.square.site>
- WHEATON GARDEN CLUB** plant sale on Saturday May 15th from 1:00pm-3:00pm located at 0N650 Coventry Drive, Wheaton, IL 60186
- BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB** 2021 ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER & PLANT SALE Friday, May 14th • 9 to 6 & Saturday, May 15th • 9 to 5 Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Drive in Bloomingdale. www.bloomingtondalegardenclub.org

GARDEN WALKS

- Pottawatomie Garden Club**, St. Charles, IL Celebrating Gardens in Bloom. Saturday, June 26, 2021 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Five gardens and a garden boutique at one of the homes. www.pottagardenclub.org
- Elmhurst Garden Club presents the 25th Garden Walk & Faire, July 11, 2021 10 am – 5 pm. 5 private gardens, Garden-themed Faire at Wilder Park. Limited number of tickets available only thru pre-sale. elmhurstgardenclub.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

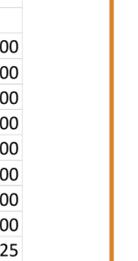
Our website is redesigned and looking fabulous, thanks to Webmaster Dori Bernstein. Check it out [here](#). Feel free to leave feedback or suggestions at gcnews@gcoprf.org

If you use **Facebook**, PLEASE volunteer to help administer the Facebook page. Please email Dori at gcnews@gcoprf.org.

If you'd like to submit original content for the **website**, such as a review of a garden book or movie, please send to Dori at gcnews@gcoprf.org.

Our **Instagram** account is at [gcoprf](#). Check it out! You can also post pictures from your own gardens or public gardens using our hashtag [#gcoprf](#). If you'd like us to post one of your photos on our Instagram, please send to President@gcoprf.org.

Photo by Mary Ellen Warner



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

Send your ideas to President@gcoprf.org.

Next month, look for photos of Garden Club members at our previous May luncheons. If you have any photos to share, especially featuring our fabulous HATS and FLOWERS, please send to President@gcoprf.org.

All of our "in the Community" listings are from members. Please send along any events you wish to share. (We may use your name in the newsletter unless you request otherwise.)

GARDEN CLUB PROPOSED BUDGET APRIL 1, 2021-MARCH 31, 2022

Income	
Dues	\$4,000.00
Luncheon	\$0.00
Ways and Means	\$3,250.00
Interest	\$25.00
Donations	\$0.00
GCI Awards	\$50.00
Work Shops/Field Trips	\$0.00
Total Income	\$7,325.00
Expenses	
Civic Beautification	\$100.00
Website	\$300.00
District II Dues	\$0.00
Cheney Decorations	\$0.00
GCI Donations	\$100.00
GCI Membership Fees	\$550.00
Workshops/Field Trips	\$0.00
Tea	\$100.00
Insurance	\$201.25
Office Operations	\$450.00
P.O. Box	\$80.00
Audit	\$650.00
Illinois Annual Report	\$15.00
Not For Profit Annual Report	\$10.00
Garden Therapy	\$700.00
Hospitality	\$600.00
Program Fees	\$2,000.00
Rent	\$600.00
Credit Card Fees	\$50.00
Directory	\$275.00
Luncheon	\$0.00
Ways and Means	\$343.75
Publicity/Advertising	\$0.00
Butterfly Project	\$200.00
Total Expenses	\$7,325.00
Special Projects	
Garden Walk Income	\$8,000.00
Garden Walk Expenses	-\$2,000.00
Garden Club Share(Scholarships)	\$3,000.00
FOPCON Share	\$3,000.00
Oak Park League Garden	\$0.00