



Nasturtium Notes

October, 2021

CLUB NEWS

*From Lisa Cederoth &
Mary Ellen Warner,
co-Presidents*

- We are sorry to inform the membership of the recent passing of long-time former Board member, Cecile Gagan.
- Upcoming **Field Trip**: October 19 to **Morton Arboretum**. See Monday's email for details.
- Dates are not scheduled yet but the field trips committee is discussing possible trips to Blumen Gardens, Anderson Japanese Gardens, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and a workshop: History of Tea. Details to follow.
- Get your **Garden Club apron** today! They're available at the meetings and at gcoprf.org. Through the end of October you can get your apron(s) embroidered with a name for an additional \$8 payable to Garden Club: just contact President@gcoprf.org.
- There are a limited number of **1990 Garden Club cookbooks** available for sale for \$5. See them at the meeting or contact Kathy English.
- **Garden Therapy** is active again at the Oak Park Arms. Remaining dates are the 3rd Wednesdays of October, December, February and April. Contact Sue Milojevic or Gina Sennello for more details.
- Our **Facebook Page** could use your attention! Please contact Dori Bernstein or any board member.

IN THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND

- **McHenry County Master Gardeners** are trying to arrange a Saturday bus trip to the [PBS Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo](#) which will be held Feb. 11-13, 2022. In 2020, the cost was \$35, which covered the entrance ticket to the show, the bus ride, and water and snacks on the bus. To express an interest, please respond to their [survey](#).
- The fall issue of **The National Gardener** is available on the GardenClub.org website: [tng-fall-2021.pdf \(gardenclub.org\)](#) Please subscribe for free.
- If you have not received your fall issue of Garden Glories, please notify Irene Williams.
- **GCI Landscape Design School** course 4 will be held October 26-27. www.gardenclubsofillinois.org
- Have you ever thought about becoming a **Master Gardener**, or do you just want to have the training? Check out a new resource: [Master Gardener Program Overview– FastGrowingTrees.com \(fast-growing-trees.com\)](#) A sample Master Gardener curriculum: [Master Gardening Curriculum– FastGrowingTrees.com \(fast-growing-trees.com\)](#)
- Check out the many programs at **Trailside Museum** in River Forest: [Trailside Museum of Natural History - Forest Preserves of Cook County \(fpdcc.com\)](#)

NASTURTIUM WINS

Modest Blossom Victor in Great Flower Referendum—The Returns—Call for Essays and Verse

Nasturtium won in the vote for village flower by the public school children. Total vote being 2,072. The nasturtium led with 666 votes. Next came the pansy with 333 votes.

Interest of the children has been raised to a high pitch. Oak Park bids fair to be one large flower garden. There were forty-nine varieties of flowers favored in the entire referendum.

The public welfare committee of the Citizens' association is greatly pleased with the start given this movement.

"Oak Park now has an official flower," said George R. Hemingway, chairman of the committee. "Every family in the village should grow nasturtiums. They should be in evidence in every nook and corner.

"A five-cent package of seeds will make possible the beautifying of many a heretofore eyesore. Let every father start the boys and girls in gardening. Gardens in all parts of Oak Park have been prepared and now are ready for the seeds of the favored flower."

"As stated last week, a suitable reward will be made to the child producing the first full bloom of the nasturtium, provided the entire culture has been done by the child who produces the bloom. All culture must be done out of doors.

"Everybody in Oak Park will be interested in learning all they can about the nasturtium. Where it came from, how it can best be cultivated, in what soil it is best grown, and the best uses blooms and seeds can be put to.

"The children of any of the grades are invited to write essays (not to exceed 200 words each), and the best ten will be published (the contest will be open until May 3).

"It has been suggested that some of the 'grown ups' might write some appropriate poems on 'The Nasturtium, Our Oak Park Flower.'

"Don't overlook the fact that nasturtiums grow well in flower boxes."

The full vote of the referendum follows:

(Continued on page 10.)

Judy Thompson and Frank Lipo from the Oak Park Historical Society tracked down some interesting information for our Club Historian, Mary Ellen Warner. Judy says, "This is from the 'Oak Leaves' issue on 4/20/1912. I'll make sure we always have Nasturtiums growing in the museum garden!"

"My garden speaks to me. It tells me it is time to start a new day, a new adventure. I hear birds singing, squirrels clawing on trees, and fish flopping around in the pond.

I feel the morning dew and humidity, and the breeze which shakes the trees..I AM peaceful, and free and energized.

As I perform my daily energy routine, the luscious grass tickles between the toes of my naked feet. I saunter along and count many of my daily ten thousand steps. Then I pick up my ceramic tea cup and drink the ginger chai which tickles my throat as it slithers down.

Burgundy, fascia, golden and lavender flowers smile up at me as I beam down at them. The mint feels velvety as I dig up a bunch for my dinner salad.

Time passes and now it is autumn and the color is changing and the leaves are starting to fall. A different season.....it is time for the garden to go deaf and dumb."

By Diana Pingle

