



Nasturtium Notes

January, 2022

CLUB NEWS

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

- Thank you to all who participated in our December Holiday Boutique! It was a festive, wonderful occasion, and Garden Club made approximately \$2000 to help with our Club programs and activities.
- Our January 12 meeting is for members only and will be on Zoom: Kim White presents "**Biomimicry- Looking to Nature to Solve Today's Problems**" how science and technology help solve complex problems by looking to nature to suggest solutions.
- **National Garden Clubs** is presenting a zoom virtual program on "How plant growers and green manufacturers impact consumer trends." This is at the same time as our zoom meeting tomorrow. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- **Garden Therapy** is active again at the Oak Park Arms. Remaining dates are the 3rd Wednesdays of February and April. Contact Sue Milojevic or Gina Sennello for more details.

BRIEFLY REVIEWED

- Camille Stauber, PhD has been a frequent presenter at the Garden Club's Landscape Design Schools. One of her most-recommended books was **The Hidden Life of Trees** by Peter Wohlleben. The author tells a compelling story of tree "communications" with a sense of wonder and humor. "When I began my professional career as a forester, I knew about as much about the hidden life of trees as a butcher knows about the emotional life of animals." He posits that trees communicate, nurture and even protect each other by various means, including scents, light, sound, electrical and chemical signals. The photographs are stunning—check it out! The Illustrated Edition is available through the OP Library.
- The Sustainability unit of my enology and viticulture classes required viewing Dr. David Montgomery speaking on "Growing a Revolution: Bringing our Soil Back to Life." Dr. Montgomery is a geologist who has come to realize that mechanical tillage used in common farming practices leads to unsustainable levels of erosion. His lightbulb moment was realizing that his wife's composting practices replaced topsoil at an even faster rate, and now he is a proponent of carbon recapture via sustainable farming/gardening practices. We gardeners can be part of the solution! I highly recommend his YouTube videos. A similar theme is found in the short **A Soil Owner's Manual** by Jon Stika, who describes the importance of soil microbes which are destroyed by traditional farming and gardening practices, including tillage and "safe" chemical fertilizers.
- From Joan Meister: A Long Island couple say fighting climate change and protecting biodiversity starts at home. Or rather, right outside their suburban house.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/03/climate/climate-change-biodiversity.html?smid=em-share>

IN THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND

- **McHenry County Master Gardeners** has arranged a bus ride to the Wisconsin Garden Expo from the Woodstock Extension Office for Saturday, February 12, for \$48 including admission. Details can be found at <https://emails.illinois.edu/newsletter/964049361.html>. Additional information on the Wisconsin Garden Expo at: <https://wigardenexpo.com/>
- **Chicago Botanic Garden** will be holding an orchid show February 12-March 22. Information will be available on their website soon. [The Orchid Show | Chicago Botanic Garden](#)
- We have been contacted by a group that promotes Roundup alternatives for the home gardener. For those of us with 5 acres of steeply sloping woods full of poison ivy and poisonous hemlock, Roundup can seem indispensable. But for normal home lawn and garden use, try these alternatives:
<https://www.consumernotice.org/environmental/pesticides/roundup/alternatives/>
- Check out the many programs at **Trailside Museum** in River Forest: [Trailside Museum of Natural History - Forest Preserves of Cook County \(fpdcc.com\)](#)

