



The
**TOWN & COUNTRY
GARDEN CLUB**

of Libertyville



October, 2025

www.towncountrygardenclub.com

The Hidden Gem



Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville
celebrates 73 years of serving the greater
Libertyville area with civic plantings, scholarship
awards, local charitable donations and our
Hidden Gems Garden Walk.

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
- L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables

October can be the crowning glory of the year and a
time to celebrate the fruition of all our months of hard
work. For our club, this is the month to honor outgoing
and new Board members, and to celebrate all our members whose hard work and
camaraderie make our club a great place to learn and grow.

Thank you to Rise Barkhoff, Liz Leonard, Evelyn Olson and Jennifer Sparrow – outgoing
2nd Co-Vice Presidents, Civic Affairs and Secretary – for your outstanding commitment
to the club and Board. Welcome new Board members Carol Braunschweig and Laura
Edwards, 2nd Co-Vice Presidents; Annie Cochran, Civic Affairs and Jennifer Sparrow,
Secretary.

Also, a special welcome to all our new members who have already added value to our
club – Karrie McDermott, Becky Sitz, Michelle Sheldon, Kathe Forrest and Liz Cochran.

Happy Autumn,
Sue

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OFFICER INSTALLATION & NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Sue Hazelwood, President of Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville, led an upbeat and festive ceremony at our annual officer installation and new member installation. Sue proudly spoke of our club and then recognized our outgoing board members for their service; our incoming board members for their willingness to give of their time and talent; and our new members who are already contributing to our outstanding garden club.



Outgoing board members and our President (from left to right):
Liz Leonard, retiring 2nd Vice President;
Sue Hazelwood, President;
Risé Barkhoff, retiring 2nd Vice President;
Evelyn Olson, retiring Civic Affairs;
Jennifer Sparrow, retiring Secretary.

Photos courtesy of Paula Lubenow



Incoming board members and our President (from left to right):
Sue Hazelwood, President;
Annie Cochran, Civic Affairs;
Laura Edwards, 2nd Vice President;
Carol Braunschweig, 2nd Vice President;;
Jennifer Sparrow, Secretary.



Photo courtesy of Therese Schaefer

New members (from left to right)
Michelle Sheldon, Liz Cochran, and Becky Sitz;
Janet Lichtenberger, 1st VP, membership; Sue Hazelwood, President
Missing: Karrie McDermott and Kathe Forrest

Autumn Civic Plantings



A magazine
publication
be print
electronic

Photos courtesy of Sue
Hazelwood

Field Trip to John R Lewis Middle School



On September 25, a group of TCGC members toured the John R. Lewis Middle School Botany and Garden Program. This program, a recipient of TCGC donations, allows middle school students to have the hands-on



opportunity to plant, cultivate, harvest and then cook food grown in the greenhouse and on the grounds in raised beds. The touring members were impressed by the extensive and well-run program.

Photos courtesy of Paula
Lubenow

Horticulture: Watering in Drought Conditions

by Janet Lichtenberger

The United States Drought Monitor maps show Lake County, Illinois to currently be in the moderate drought (D1) and “extremely dry” (D0) categories. When everything needs water, how should a gardener prioritize what to water? And what care do different types of garden plants need during a dry spell?

Gardeners should prioritize watering permanent, at-risk plants first. This includes woody plants, such as trees and shrubs. Newly planted perennials should be the next priority. Annuals and other plants can be further down the list. Houseplants summering outdoors can come inside. Turf grass can go dormant and survive with little water.

Trees and shrubs need water, yet these are not usually the first plants we think of. We see stressed trees and shrubs all around us – turning to fall color early, or with leaves curling and browning. Water trees and shrubs thoroughly once or twice a week, depending on rainfall. For newly planted trees and shrubs (1–3 years old), water twice a week. Wood mulch spread under trees and shrubs helps to retain water. Keep the mulch six inches away from the trunk, and do not volcano mulch around the tree trunk. Control plants and turf under trees and shrubs – these compete for water. Don’t fertilize drought stressed trees and shrubs. And avoid unnecessary pruning and transplanting of trees and shrubs during a dry spell.

Perennial plants, especially newly planted ones, also need attention during drought. Water all perennials when the soil surface dries out. A soaker hose is ideal, but if you are using a wand direct the flow of water around the base of the plant.

Flowering annuals and vegetable crops should be watered when the top inch of soil is dry. Avoid frequent fertilization. Vegetables vary in water requirements, but a general rule of thumb is that each has a critical period when consistent water is especially important. Find detailed guidance for vegetable gardens in [This Extension Article](#).

Water in the early morning. This minimizes water loss due to evaporation. Water plants at the root zone, using a slow soaker or drip hose, plastic tree bag, or small sprinkler that distributes water close to the ground. Avoid overhead watering devices. Choose plants that are drought resistant, especially for sunny areas. Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Conserve water using rain barrels and reuse clean household water where possible.

Keeping a garden watered and healthy during a drought is a challenge, but hopefully these guidelines help!



Conservation Corner: The Lake County Forest Preserves

by Anne Stranberg

Well, What Do You Know!

Willa Cather, (American Author, 1873–1947, *My Antonia*, *O Pioneers*), wrote, “Anybody can love the mountains, but it takes a soul to love the prairie.” While the “Prairie State” has lost all but 0.01% of its native prairie, our Lake County Forest Preserve has had a significant impact on preservation and restoration.

Our Forest Preserve District has received national acclaim for several aspects of its operations and, importantly, for its conservation efforts. These include the Green Practices Award for commitment to environmental sustainability and the Regional Resilience Award for increasing resilience to flooding areas.

Our Forest Preserve District now protects over 31,200 acres with more than 200 miles of multi-use trails. It’s the perfect time of you to enjoy time in them: bike, hike, stroll, picnic.

Celebrate our environment and fall colors!
Anne Stranberg, Conservation Chair

[Horizons](#) (magazine of the LCFP)

[Inventory of native Illinois roadside prairie remnants, 2001–2003](#)

[Expand Your Experience, the official map and guide to your forest preserves](#)



Meet a Member:

Mary Martucci

Being a member of the Town and Country Garden Club of Libertyville for 15 years has been both an honor and an enriching experience. I have learned much from our many presentations and made lasting friendships.

While attending high school in River Forest, Illinois, I came to appreciate beautiful residential architecture and landscape design as the neighborhood homes were beautiful and beautifully landscaped with trees and gardens. My husband Jim and I, along with our two young children, moved into our present home in Libertyville in 1997. We enjoyed working on our gardens in the hope of enhancing our front and back yards. Over the years, we planted many trees (I love trees!) – dogwood, crabapple, redbud, red maple, sugar maple, and blue spruce – as well as the traditional boxwood bushes, hydrangeas, hostas, English ivy and pachysandra ground cover. Every spring brings new and endless opportunities for improving and expanding our plantings. The past three years, I planted allium bulbs to add a touch of whimsy to the front yard. Each year, I plant colorful annuals to complement the perennial gardens.



In addition to learning gardening techniques from our club presentations, I took classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden and studied books and magazines on garden design. Also, visiting gardens, whether private or public, always provides me with new and exciting garden ideas.

Other ways I enjoy spending my time is to do needlework, read, play the piano and entertain. Attending church services and functions as well as spending time with my family, which includes three small, adorable grandsons, is at the top of my list.

Perennial of the Month: Pachysandra

Pachysandra is a evergreen ground cover in the boxwood family, native to Japan and northern central China. Pachysandra blooms in early spring, spreads by rhizomes, and loves the dappled shade under large trees. Hardy from 4a through 9b, pachysandra likes moist, well-drained soil. It takes about three years to establish a continuous bed of the ground cover.



Cautions are that it is susceptible to leaf blight and root rot, and that it can spread aggressively in optimal areas.

Native of the Month:

Blue-stemmed Goldenrod, sometimes referred to as Wreath Goldenrod, is a well-behaved woodland species. It forms attractive loose clumps with arching stems and long, thin leaves. Small clusters of bright yellow flowers form in the leaf axils for about half the stem's length. Stem color in mature plants has a dark, somewhat bluish tone.

Goldenrod are a keystone species, essential to the ecological health of our area. People often blame goldenrod for allergies. This is not true: goldenrod pollen is large and sticky to better stick to insects. Because of this, it cannot become airborne and make its way into your sinuses. One major cause of late summer allergies is RAGWEED, which broadcasts large amounts of lightweight pollen into the air.



Photo Courtesy of [Prairie Moon Nursery](#).

NGC/GCI News

Click to Register

SHARING PERSPECTIVES

at the

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation's

2025 FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM

October 27-28 • Osthoff Resort • Elkart Lake, WI

in conjunction with the

Central Region Convention

October 28-30 • Osthoff Resort • Elkart Lake, WI

PERSPECTIVELY CONNECTED

2025 Central Region Convention

Oct. 28th - 30th

Osthoff Resort



**National Garden Clubs
ENVIRONMENTAL
SCHOOL
Series 16, Course 1
Zoom Only**

**JANUARY 13-15, 2026
8:15 a.m. - 12 noon EST**

Please Register Data Online

Sowing Seeds of Organization:

Google Drive & Workspace for Garden Clubs

Tired of digging through emails or juggling outdated versions of documents? Learn how to streamline your club's work using Google Drive and the Google Workspace tools (Docs, Sheets, Forms, and more)!



Ann Baker
Guest Speaker

TIPS:

To get the most out of this session, it's best if your club or you as an individual have a Gmail address set up. We'll be using Google tools that work best when you're already signed in.

Bring Your Device!

Bring a laptop or tablet to follow along and try out the tools during the session.



15 October 2025



9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Mount Prospect Public Library
10 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL

REGISTER



847-997-4464



anfbaker@gmail.com

Upcoming Events



June 27th, 2025 Mark your calendars! Five exceptional gardens

Meet the gardeners and be inspired by unique designs and specimens.

Online tickets Available. Village Hall sales open 6/2.
Members receive tickets 6/3.
Farmer's Market sales June 4, 11, and 25th

2025 Native Landscaping Conference

The Lake-To-Prairie chapter of Wild Ones® is pleased to welcome back Doug Tallamy for our 2025 Native Landscaping Conference!



Join us as we explore how our individual efforts can collectively lead to a healthier planet.

Saving Nature with Your Yard



Saturday, November 8, 2025
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center
2007 N. Civic Center Way, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073
Register at: <https://laketoprairie.wildones.org/>

This year's conference, **Saving Nature With Your Yard** will support our chapter's mission to educate people about the importance of preserving natural ecosystems. Bringing educators together in one place will provide a wealth of information for those individuals new to the native plant idea as well as the practiced native gardener.

Landscaping plays a vital role in responsible land stewardship. By incorporating native plants, we can help rebuild ecosystems, restore essential connections between plants and animals, and support a healthier, more resilient planet. This conference will empower participants to create wildlife-friendly habitats, promote biodiversity, and address the decline in wildlife populations through the power of native plant gardening.

2025 Garden Learning Series

Sponsored by The University of Illinois Extension Lake County Master Gardeners, SWALCO, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District

Session 9 – Starting Native Plants from Seed
Presenter: Lake County Forest Preserves

October 8 – Virtual
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

To register, click [HERE](#)

Gardening in the Air Virtual Gardening Symposium Sat. Oct 18 9 am - 12:30 pm

[Registration &
Information](#)

