



The Hidden Gem

Winter, 2023

Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville
celebrates 71 years of serving the greater
Libertyville area with civic plantings,
scholarship awards, local charitable donations
and our
Hidden Gems Garden Walk.

THIS SEASON:

- Winter work
- Creating containers
- Indoor herbs
- Upcoming Events

I often wonder what my neighbors think when they see me in the gardens mid-winter, stomping through the snow, lugging clippers, hand shears and lopping shears from shrub to tree. See page two for some hints about snowy garden tasks.

This time of year I begin to grow tired of gray and yearn for that bright green of spring. Bring the aroma and color of summer into your home by indulging in some indoor herb gardening during these cold months. See tips!

Do you know a high school senior or a college student studying in the fields of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Plant Pathology, Forestry, Agronomy, or Environmental Studies? Do they reside in Libertyville or neighboring communities? Inform them of our Stephanie Greene Scholarship. Information and application can be found [HERE](#)

We hope in this season of garden-dreaming you are enjoying the seed catalogs with their endless possibilities and promises of summer blooms and harvests. Happy planning!



Ann Baker, TCGC Member

Winter Tips

Take Time to Trim

February and March are great months for the restless gardener to begin some outdoor activity.

Hydrangea Pruning

Panicked Hydrangeas bloom on new wood and should be pruned in late winter or early spring. Some varieties are *Limelight*, *Little Lime*, *QuickFire*, and *Pinky Winky*.

Smooth Hydrangeas, like *Annabelle*, respond well to a rejuvenation pruning. Remove the outer canes in late winter.

Oakleaf Hydrangeas bloom on old wood and should be pruned after blooming.

Tree and Shrub Pruning

Winter tree pruning is advocated by the Extension Service of Illinois.

Most deciduous trees are best pruned in dormancy – preventing diseases and insects from attacking through the pruning wounds.

For more information with photos and pruning guides, click [HERE](#)



Garden Planning?

Try these online seed catalogues for inspiration

[Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#)

[Johnny's Selected Seeds](#)

[Select Seeds](#)



Indoor Herb Gardens

Are you missing the taste of fresh herbs in your dishes? Growing herbs indoors is a great way to satisfy that gardening impulse and enjoy fresh, homegrown flavor in winter.

Oregano, parsley, thyme and basil all grow well indoors. Starting with plants is faster to harvest and use, but herbs can be grown from seed. Use fresh potting soil and a pot with a drain hole; place in a sunny, south-facing window; and make sure the plants aren't exposed to cold drafts. Don't over-water - the herbs don't like wet roots. Rotate the pot occasionally for even exposure. Harvest herbs in the morning, and try to not let the herbs flower. Flowering will change the taste of the leaves.

For more specific guidance, click [HERE](#)



Creative Containers

Painting plain clay garden pots can perk up your indoor plant-scape and spring patio, or personalize a gift plant. Acrylic craft paint or spray paint works best. Use foam brushes for base coats and small brushes for details. Paint tape is handy for producing sections of color.

If using spray paint, remember to ventilate adequately and use a paint cloth/sheet at least three times the size of the pot - it's surprising how far the overspray marks. When planning, consider a unified color palette to create a cohesive design between pots. Simple patterns like dots, stars, stripes, and waves elevate the design with little added difficulty.

1. Remove stickers and wash the pots.
2. Apply a light primer coat.
3. Be prepared to apply multiple coats to attain the desired look
4. Add white paint to create modulated tints within the same color.
5. When the paint is dry (which may take extra time in winter chill), coat with water-based spray acrylic to seal and protect the design.

Upcoming Events

**Stephanie Greene
Scholarship
Applications due
March 1st**
Click below for
information and
application
documents:
SCHOLARSHIP



SAVE
THE
DATE!



The Land Conservancy of McHenry County Plan Your Native Plant Garden Webinar February 9, 2023

Planning on starting a new native plant garden this spring? Join us! Site preparation, favorite easy plant choices for sun and shade, the pollinator connection, and vital maintenance tips to make any garden a success will be covered.

Date: February 9, 2023

Time: Noon-1:30 p.m. (CT)

Fee: Free

2023 Garden Learning Series



Upcoming Programs

University of Illinois Extension, Lake County Forest Preserves & SWALCO present the 2023 Garden Learning Series. With the exception of February, programs will be held the second Wednesdays of the month, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

February 15:

Seed Starting for your Garden

March 8:

Successful Vegetable Gardening

April 12:

Composting: Basics, Benefits & Beyond

Orchid Show

Chicago Botanic Gardens



February 11 – March 26

Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Big, bold beauty

A 25-foot-wide orchid. Huge hanging columns of color. And a chance to step in and become part of the bloom. This year's all-new Orchid Show is big, bold, and beautiful. Expect the unexpected and explore the brighter side of winter at the Orchid Show: Magnified.



GREEN LIVING FAIR

FREE

Saturday, April 15, 2023

10 AM – 2 PM

University Center of Lake County, Grayslake

EXHIBITORS:

Gardening, composting, solar energy, conservation & more



FOR MORE VISIT: www.towncountrygardenclub.com