



Naperville Community Gardeners

July 2010

Purpose: To nurture the gardening interests of its members and the community through educational programs and community service projects.

Garden Tour & Picnic July 17, 2010

Please join us for another fun tour of members' gardens! This year's hosts include Tom Campbell, Barbara Jones, Linda Thompson, Patti Thompson and Bob Elvert. Bob will be our picnic host.

Things to bring:

- Spouses, family or friends
- A lawn chair to sit on
- Tables if you have them
- **Your own plates & silverware (reduce, reuse, recycle!)**
- A dish to pass, along with serving utensils:
 - A-L please bring a dessert
 - M-Z please bring an appetizer or salad

Be prepared to keep your food cold in a cooler in your own car. If you don't have a cooler, please let Laurel know and she will make sure there is cooler space available. If you have a large cooler and will have room for other items, please let Laurel know when you RSVP.

The club will provide grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, cold drinks and napkins.

Schedule and gardens are as follows. Please feel free to join us anywhere along the route.

9:00	Arrive Barbara's garden
9:45	Arrive Linda's garden
10:30	Arrive Tom's garden
11:15	Arrive Patti's garden
12:00	Arrive Bob's garden

Please RSVP to Laurel LaLonde by Saturday, July 10th

by emailing: info@napervillecommunitygardeners.org

We need your RSVP so we can be sure to have enough burgers and hot dogs!

Garden Directions & Descriptions

9:00 a.m. **Barbara Jones, 1043 E. Gartner.** From Washington St. & Gartner: east on Gartner, pass Proud Clarion & Honest Pleasure. Barbara's house is on the left just before Whirlaway.

"When we moved into our house 18 years ago, it was all lawn with just yews and spireas up against the house. Little by little we have been replacing lawn with mulched/planted areas. My husband Ken built the pergola in the back yard, and the wisteria was brought by cuttings from my father's house in NJ. We've planted a lot of native plants and use very few chemicals in our yard in an attempt to attract birds, butterflies and insects. My favorite part is the shade garden on the side of the house. The large black walnut in my back neighbors' yard has presented me with the opportunity to experiment on many different plants to see what will tolerate this difficult area. Since the Park District paved our garden plot, Betty Ference and I are now doing all of our vegetable gardening in a raised bed filled with compost which I make with my two composters. I make roughly 4-5 batches of compost each summer in my rotating composter. The rain barrel on the side of the house provides all the water for my pots of annuals, tropicals and herbs on the patio." - *Barbara*

9:45 a.m. **Linda Thompson and Allen May, 1140 Venetian Ct.**
From Barbara's: right on Whirlaway, left on Citation, right on Venetian.

"Our yard is heavily treed and always a work in progress - and as with many houses built in the late '70s- the trees long ago outgrew the space that was allotted to them, so we are witnessing their decline and need to remove some of them. The large wood pile is the remains of some of those lost trees, but it serves a useful purpose as it's used by all our neighbors for our frequent cul-de-sac fire pit gatherings. We added a stamped concrete patio last year and the beds that surround it are planted primarily in hostas, heuchera and lady's mantle. My husband is crazy for solar powered outdoor lighting, so you'll see his sizeable collection. Check out my two rain barrels and my attempts at growing some vegetables and herbs next to the patio - a bit challenging as sun is at a premium in my yard. I will do my best to get the yard into shape for your visit!" -*Linda*

10:30 a.m. **Tom Campbell, 1135 Chateaugay.** From Linda's: right on Citation, right on Chateaugay.

11:15 a.m. **Patti Thompson, 1213 Jane Ave.** From Tom's: right on Citation, left on Gartner, right on Charles, pass Prairie Park, right on Jane, pass Richard. Patti's house is before you reach Pembroke.

Noon **Bob Elvert, 587 Bovidae Circle.**
From Patti's: left on Charles, right on Gartner, left on Modaff, right on Bailey, right on Westglen. Good spot to park is Owen Elementary at the corner of Bailey & Westglen. Bovidae is the first left off Westglen.

"14 years ago it was 4 trees with a neglected veggie garden, then it became practice fields for baseball, soccer, volleyball and playsets. Now it's "A Garden Park in Process" with its multiple perennial flower beds expanding every year and the 20+ trees and spruces which have begun to create shade. As a result, one can begin to see my madness...except my family. Hope you enjoy it." -*Bob*

Naperville Community Gardeners June 7, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. Patti Thompson, President, welcomed members and guests. Judy Kanarek motioned to approve the January Meeting minutes, Betty Ference seconded. No Treasurer's report this month.

Announcements:

Connie Bailey – for the Growing Place. This year's Gardeners Art Festival will be on Saturday June 26th at the Plank Rd location. They need volunteers to assist the artists and help with refreshments. You will receive a 20% discount for your plant purchases that day. Contact Connie at 630-355-4000 or see www.thegrowingplace.com for more info.

Connie Bailey - [Parkinson's Garden Walk](#) Benefit tickets are being sold at the Growing Place. The walk is on Sunday, Jun 27th and features 4 spectacular private gardens.

Ron Ory – “A Day in the Garden” – Master Gardener Garden Walk – Saturday June 26th from 9 am – 4 pm. Visit seven gardens of Master Gardeners and learn about the special features highlighted at each location.. See <http://dupagefriendsorextension.org> or call 630-955-1123 for more info.

- **Betty Ference** - please double check your contact information on the membership list and let her know if there are any corrections to be made.
- **Eleanor Holt** – Thanks to club members Eleanor Holt, Jan Gricus, JoAnn Monge, Ron Ory, Bonnie Oulman, Nick Papadolias, Marie Riley, and Logan Wasson, for assisting with the planting at Naper Settlement.
- **Carolyn Finzer** - Jan Gricus donated some perennials for the Post Office.

Old Business:

- **Picnic** - Laurel LaLonde has the food signup for the picnic which is July 17th. Please contact Laurel to sign up.
 - **Plant Sale** – Logan Wasson. Thanks to all club members for participating in the sale, especially the heroic efforts of Ben Calvert. Ron Ory is still compiling all the data, but when that is done, we will have more details from him and Tom Campbell.
- Flower Show** - Laurel LaLonde is collecting digital photos from members to select one for the cover of the flower show guide. Email her any of your photos.

Mini-Show: Carolyn Finzer brought in a lovely pink Phalaenopsis orchid from her greenhouse. Nick Papadolias brought in some yellow squash plants for members. Linda Allison brought in some freshly cut rhubarb for the taking.

Adjourn: Barbara Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. Laurel LaLonde 2nd.

Speaker: Rod Beary introduced our speaker, Steve Tiwald from [The Green Earth Institute](#). Steve runs a 20 acre organic CSA (Community Support Agriculture) facility at the McDonald Farm in Naperville. Steve's motto for the organic vegetable farm, is, "Farming for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet". The 60 acre McDonald farm is on Knoch Knolls Rd and is run by [The Conservation Foundation](#). Sterling and Lenore McDonald bought the farm in 1949 when they got married. She donated the land to the Conservation Foundation in 1992. Steve is leasing the land for the Green Earth Institute. They initially started with 1.75 acres eight years ago. They now grow 40 crops such as beets, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, chard, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions, peppers, 4 varieties of potatoes, radishes, rutabaga, spinach, summer squash, tomatoes, watermelons, winter squash, zucchini, basil, cilantro, parsley, sage. Steve says that Butternut winter squash have a very good flavor and that with Delicata winter squash - you can eat the skin. For a seed starting/fertilizing medium, Steve uses [Cowsmo](#) – a dairy manure based potting mix from an organic dairy farm in Wisconsin. His seedlings spend 4 weeks in the greenhouse, then they go into the hoop house. Plants go into the greenhouse around April 1st. He says to never let the tomato seedlings get below 45 degrees so they will heat the greenhouse with thermostatically regulated kerosene heaters. They start planting cold weather crops around April 15th.

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Due to fragrance allergies, your “fragrance free” attendance at meetings and club events is greatly appreciated.

Green Earth Institute Agricultural Practices: Organic and Sustainable. The key is in the soil. There are over 6 billion microorganisms in each cup of soil like bacteria, fungi, nematodes, - the richer the collection of microorganisms, the more nutritious the soil will be. Steve looks for at least 4-5 percent of organic matter in his soil, which is an indicator of the microorganism activity. Chemicals damage the microbial life. This includes use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides.

Compost: Steve uses compost as fertilizer (he prefers cow manure over horse manure). They mix manure and leaves (from the city) and let that sit over the year to compost. He doesn't like wood chips (large shavings) but will use wood shaving. Using wood chips can deplete the soil of nitrogen which can stunt the growth of the plants.

Crop Rotations: If you grow the same crop in the same spot year after year, you are inviting the bad insects, fungi and diseases to establish themselves. This is a problem with monocropping. Steve rotates fields (2 years on and 2 years off), and rotating the crops within the fields.

Cover Crops - Steve doesn't want to leave the soil bare so it washes or blows away. Also cover crops are good (like red clover) because it is a legume and fixes nitrogen, making it available to subsequent crops. After the cover crop grows, they cut it and let it decompose into the soil.

Avoid toxic chemicals. They are linked to many diseases like cancer, leukemia, nervous system damage, birth defects, miscarriage, Organic food is more nutritious, they have more flavonoids, polyphenolics (natural antioxidants),

Reasons for eating locally: Vegetables at the supermarket have traveled an average of 1,500 miles. Transportation costs, depletion of fossil fuels, air pollution greenhouse effect are all reasons to eat locally grown produce. Additionally, produce is most nutritious (and tasty) when it is freshest.

CSA - Direct farmer to consumer arrangement. Customers buy a share of the harvest. They have 659 participating households in the program. People can buy weekly shares or bi-weekly shares.

Can use PyGanic (an organic pyrethrum) for soft shelled insects. They use BT, and copper for insect and fungus control.

Refreshments

Thank you to Ben Calvert for the wonderful baked goods at the June meeting. Thanks also to Bea McGovern for her yummy brownies.

The schedule for refreshments is:

August	Rose Mary Stelter
September	Jan Gricus & JoAnn Monge
October	Patti Thompson

Members Plant Sale 2011

The Collector's Plants table was a success this year and will be featured again next year. In addition, plant tables for Natives, Hummingbirds and Butterflies will be added. At the August meeting I will have lists of each plant group so you can check out your garden and see if you might have some that will need to be divided for next year's sale.

Thanks again for all your help for the 2010 sale.

-Linda Allison

Plant Sale Signs

I'm still collecting plant sale signs so I can update them for next year. Please let me know if you have any or feel free to drop them off at my house (1043 E. Gartner Rd., between Washington and Naper) anytime.

Thanks, Barbara Jones

Flower & Garden Show Guide Cover

Don't forget - June 30th is the deadline to submit photos for the Guide Cover. High quality digital photos should be emailed to info@napervillecommunitygardeners.org

Upcoming Events

July 17: Garden Tours & Picnic - see page 5 & 6
August 2: Meeting & Program: *I've Removed the Buckthorn and Honeysuckle - Now What Do I Do? Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*
August 21: 30th Annual Flower & Garden Show
September 13: Meeting & Program. Members Plant Exchange.