



# Naperville Community Gardeners

June 2010

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

## From the President

Hello again from Arizona. I was told spring had arrived in Naperville so I came home from sunny Arizona for the club's May meeting and annual plant sale. Spirits were high for the plant sale and so was the wind. The surprise spring May day was wet and cold. Winter had returned. The tent blew down that Ben was guarding. He did his best to hold it down. Members had to scramble to reorganize items for the sale. We are a hardy lot and I want to thank all the members and U of I extension people who helped on the weekend and to all the customers who continue to support NCG. Hopefully the weather will cooperate next year. Considering the weather conditions the club did very well. I've been told that summer will be here for the club's picnic. I'll be back in June. Happy planting!

*-Patti Thompson, President*

## Refreshments

A big THANKS to Barb Bockman who has volunteered to take over the coordination of refreshments. Thank you to Judy Kanarek & Linda Allison for the wonderful refreshments at the May meeting. Thanks also to Nick Papadolias who brought a wonderful tray of baklava.

The schedule for refreshments is:

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

## Next Meeting

**Monday, June 7, 2010**  
**7 p.m.**

### **Organic Farming in Naperville** **By Steve Tiwald**

Steve Tiwald is a corporate manager-turned-organic farmer and environmental educator. For over 20 years he worked in managerial roles in the HMO business, but in 2002 he set out on a new path, following three of his passions— working with nature to grow plants, environmental activism, and nutrition education. Tiwald established the Green Earth Institute, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to environmental sustainability and nutritional health, with its centerpiece a 60-acre organic vegetable farm in Naperville. Now in its eighth year, the farm annually grows 40 different types of certified organic produce, providing fresh nutritious vegetables and herbs to over 650 households in the western suburbs through its community-supported agriculture (CSA) program, as well as contributing thousands of pounds to three local food pantries for distribution to low-income people in our community. The Green Earth Institute's farming operation is a model of sustainable agriculture and uses the farm as a venue for several educational programs.

## 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

## May Minutes -

### Naperville Community Gardeners Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2010

**Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm. Patti Thompson, President, welcomed members and guests. Linda Thompson motioned to approve the January Meeting minutes, Barbara Jones seconded. Tom Campbell gave a Treasurer's report.

#### Announcements:

- **Ben Calvert** – for the Growing Place. This year's Garden Art Festival will be on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Ben or see [www.thegrowingplace.com](http://www.thegrowingplace.com) for more info.
- **Barbara Jones** – DuPage Forest Preserve Native Plant Sale on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Barbara Jones** – The Conservation Foundation DuPage River Sweep on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Carolyn Finzer** – photo of Ron Ory for Tree Planting in Positively Naperville
- **Carolyn Finzer** – Brochure at Naper Settlement - Garden Guide with information of their plantings.
- **Carolyn Finzer** – Fermilab is looking for volunteers for Prairie Monitors. See <http://ed.fnal.gov/programs/quadrat> or call Nancy Lanning at 840-5588 for more info
- **Patti Thompson** – Glen Ellyn Garden Walk - Saturday June 19. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. See [www.bridgecommunities.org/News-events/Calendar/Glen-Ellyn-Garden-Walk.html](http://www.bridgecommunities.org/News-events/Calendar/Glen-Ellyn-Garden-Walk.html) or call 545-0610 for more info.
- **Ron Ory** – “An Evening in the Garden” - Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9 pm. Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, sweets, music while strolling the gardens at Ball Horticulture in West Chicago. See <http://dupagefriendsorextension.org> or call 630-955-1123 for more info.
- **Ron Ory** – “A Day in the Garden” – Master Gardener Garden Walk – Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **JoAnn Monge** – The Naperville Garden Club is having a standard flower show one week before ours, on August 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 4:30 pm at the Naperville Municipal Center. It is free and open to the public and would be a great opportunity to see or participate in. See [www.napervillegardenclub.org](http://www.napervillegardenclub.org) for more info and to see the flower show guide. Contact JoAnn at 961-2041 for more info.

#### Old Business:

- **Plant Sale** – Logan Wasson: Plant Sale is May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Plots. Setup is on Friday evening May 7<sup>th</sup>. Member's Plants – Linda Allison: Contact her if you have plants to donate or if you want to join either of her committees: Pricing Committee – meet to decide on pricing April 22<sup>nd</sup>. and Friday May 7th. Label Making Committee – meet 6-9 pm on Wed before the sale at Linda's.
- **Mini-Show:** Carolyn Finzer brought in Mayapple and Trillium. Jan Gricus brought in artichokes and tomato plants that she started over the winter in gallon jugs. See <http://wintersown.org> for more info on this. She also brought in some sheet moss and instructions for making a craft with it. Wanda Wohead brought in radishes that she grew and already harvested this year. Eleanor Holt brought in a Black Pearl Pepper plant that she started from seed and will be selling at the plant sale. Barbara Jones brought in 2 hostas that Rosemary Stelter donated to the plant sale. Laurel LaLonde brought in several tomato plants to show the effects of cheap potting soil vs. quality potting soil. The plants that were grown in the cheap soil were very small and looked very poor while the tomatoes grown in the quality soil looked healthy. JoAnn Monge brought in Golden Alexander and a pink tree peony flower. Freda Haller brought in an unknown plant which is reseeding in her yard.

**Adjourn:** Patti Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Finzer 2nd.

**Speaker:** Arup Bhuyan introduced our speaker Laura Anderson who spoke to us about **Keeping Honey Bees in the Midwest – What you should know before Attempting the “Honey Dew” List**. Laura talked about the history and logistics of beekeeping,

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

the caste system, bee behavior, pests and problem, and honey.

**History of Beekeeping:**

- Honey bees arrived in American around the 1620's. They are not native to North America – they were brought by the Europeans. Bees managed to propagate with or without their humans and started heading west either as swarms or with settlers heading into new territories that were travelling along established water routes. Bee Skeps came to symbolize a society working together for the good of the whole. (A Bee Skep is a bee “house”)
- Lorenzo Langstroth – born in 1810, started keeping bees in 1838 and discovered Bee Space in 1851. Bee Space is 3/8” – that is the size of bee cells. He designed a bee hive that had removable frames and that were spaced equidistant from each other. The Langstroth box has not changed much since his invention. The Langstroth design allows the beekeeper to examine each frame of the bee’s “hive body” which is important to monitor to check for hive/bee health and activity.
- In 1878 Charles Dadant organized political pressure to protect beekeepers and consumers from operations adulterating honey. In 1906 Beekeepers generated enough support to pass the Pure Food Act in Congress. In 1922 – The Honey Bee Restriction Act – stopped the importation of foreign bees. In 1923 law was enacted that all hives must be inspected and outlawing bee gums (homemade bee containers). In 2004 – the USDA rescinded much of the 1922 Honey Bee Restriction Act. Beekeepers must register their hives with the state of IL or be subject to fines or confiscation of their hives.

**Logistics of Beekeeping:**

- When you purchase bees – you get a 3 lb box with about 9,000 bees, and a queen in a separate compartment. Our bees normally come from Hawaii because they have the fewest diseases. They are ordered in the fall and they arrive in the spring when dandelions flower as the bees will use the pollen from them.
- Bees forage up to 5 miles of their hives, so multiple bee populations can come into contact with each other. Honey bees are protected so that killing them is not allowed unless they are threatening “life or limb”.
- Hives with AFB must be killed and burned. American Foul Brood (AFB) is a bacterium that can spread easily.
- If you think a bee colony is getting established in your home, try to get rid of them quickly, but it may not be easy to discourage them.

**Caste system in Hive**

- Queens hatch in about 16 days. the Queen is much longer, but her wings are much shorter than the other bees in the hive. As a larvae, she was fed Royal Jelly which makes her much larger and mature sexually. Queens can live up to 3 years. If you clip the Queens wings, it discourages the hive from swarming (which they might do if they need extra space). The Queen’s job is just to lay eggs – she can lay up to 2,000 eggs/day. The queen

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**Naperville Community Gardeners**

**Executive Board**

- President..... Patti Thompson
- Vice-President.....Arup Bhuyan
- Secretary..... Barbara Jones
- Treasurer ..... Tom Campbell
- Past President..... Robert Elvert

**Committee Chairs**

- Flower and Garden Show ..... Tom Campbell
- Garden Plant-A-Row.....Ben Calvert
- ..... Tom Campbell
- Garden Plot Judging ..... OPEN
- Gardening Workshops.....Ron Ory
- Harvest Banquet ..... Esther Prock
- Historian..... Carolyn Finzer
- High School Liaisons
- District 203 .....Kris Siuciak
- District 204 .....Wanda Wohead
- Membership ..... Betty Ference
- Meeting Refreshments..... Barb Bockman
- Mini Show ..... OPEN
- Naper Settlement.....Eleanor Holt
- Naper Settlement Rose Garden..... Brian Bell
- Newsletter ..... Laurel LaLonde
- Newsletter Distribution ..... Mary Wright
- Photography..... Ron Ory
- Picnic ..... Laurel LaLonde
- Programs.....Arup Bhuyan
- Publicity..... Laurel LaLonde
- River Walk Clean Up.....Linda Thompson
- River Walk Gardens.....Ben Calvert
- Show Directory..... Laurel LaLonde
- Special Correspondence..... Carolyn Finzer
- Website ..... Peter Klassen

**Photos for the  
Flower & Garden Show Guide**

Don't forget to think about photos for the cover of the Flower & Garden Show guide. This is our 30th Annual Flower & Garden Show!! Let's have some really nice photos on our cover. Photos should be submitted to Laurel at [info@napervillecommunitygardeners.org](mailto:info@napervillecommunitygardeners.org) by June 30th. Photos must be in .jpg format and be sure to take them in a higher quality mode, not the email quality setting.

goes for 1 mating flight and then lays eggs for the next few years.

- Drones are males. They hatch in about 28 days. Drones come from unfertilized eggs and they are bigger than the workers. If the Queen starts laying lots of drones, then it is time to replace the queen.

- Worker bees hatch in about 21 days. Worker bees live about 30 days and each makes about 1.5 tps of honey. A hive can make up to 200 lbs of honey a year. The rest of the hive determines when new queen cells should be developed – they will do this if a hive gets too big or the queen’s scent is not strong enough. The workers will start to feed a larvae royal jelly and extra feedings to develop extra queen cells. They do this in the spring.

### **Honey Bee Behaviors:**

- Hive Building: If bees are left to themselves, they build combs. The queen lays eggs in an oval pattern. The worker bees put cells of nectar/pollen around the babies. The young bees work in the nursery. Older bees become field bees – those who forage for pollen.

- Swarming: happens in the spring of each year. There are usually 15-30,000 bees in a swarm. Scouts fly from the swarm to look for a suitable home. Returning bees do a dance to indicate suitable home sources. They go with the old queen to look for a new site.

- Fanning: they fan their backside – to distribute a scent, to cool a hive, to desiccate the honey (it is 18% moisture when it is capped off).

- Pollen Gathering: Bees gather pollen and put it in pollen sacs on her legs and all over their body. The workers in the hive groom the field bees to remove the pollen.

### **Pests and Problems**

- Diseases- many kinds of Bacterial, Fungal, Viruses, CCD – Colony Collapse Disorder

- Pests: mites, Varroa mites, Tracheal mites

- Predators – skunks eat bees, deer knock over hives

- Problems – Environmental: Pesticides, temperatures, quantity of food, suitable housing. Bees do not like to be disturbed on days of bad weather. Beekeepers need to know how much honey to take off the hive since bees need to eat the honey to survive the winter.

### **Honey:**

- Beekeepers can sell liquid honey – putting the combs in a centrifuge to extract the honey. Or they can sell comb honey. The queen lives in the hive body and the honey gets collected in the honey super. A screen is placed in between the two to keep the queen from getting into the honey super and laying eggs. The workers use the honey super to store the honey.

- Varietal honey – during the height of a particular flowering season, the honey from that time is that variety. Bees won’t forage far out if there is a sufficient supply of pollen nearby.

- Honey will crystallize – it isn’t bad. As long as it’s not exposed to water it will stay good forever. Store honey won’t crystallize because it’s been heated so much, so crystallizing is good.

## **Plant Sale Reports**

Congratulations to club members for another successful plant sale! If anyone has any comments or suggestions regarding this years’ sale, please let me know. I will record these suggestions in our binder for next year. If you wish for your comments to be made anonymously, just let me know and I will not put your name with the comment. Also, I will be collecting the yard signs so I can update them with next years date. Please drop them at my house or let me know where I can pick them up. My house is on this years club garden walk so you can bring them then. Thanks.

*-Barbara Jones*

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Thank you to all the NCG members who came to help on Friday and Saturday. I really appreciated your work in helping people carry plants from their cars and assist with labeling, pricing plants, carrying plants to the appropriate tables, helping buyers find plants and giving growing information and giving me suggestions and advice. I especially appreciate your staying on Saturday when the weather was not pleasant!

We probably had over 1200 plants donated by members!! Our donations depend on what needs to be divided or moved in our gardens but this year’s selection of different varieties was great. The Collector’s Table was new this year and a big hit. Thanks to Eleanor and Bea and their hostas. Buyers asked for the Collector’s Table, which shows they read the Naperville Sun article. Thanks Laurel!

It isn’t too early to think about next year. So as you work around your gardens this summer keep an eye out for those plants that will be in need of dividing. Also please let me know if you have ideas for next year.

Thanks again.

*-Linda Allison*

## **Riverwalk Cleanup**

Thanks to Barb Bockman, Linda Thompson, Ron Ory, Jan Gricus and Carolyn Finzer for helping out at the Riverwalk Cleanup.

# Naperville Community Gardeners

## 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, ([info@napervillecommunitygardeners.org](mailto:info@napervillecommunitygardeners.org)) if you plan to attend so we can be sure to have enough burgers and hot dogs!

If you can provide a table or would be willing to help with the grilling, please let Laurel know.