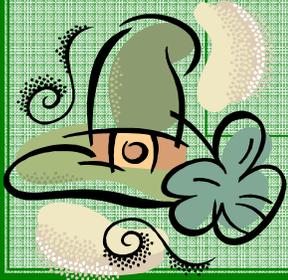


Winfield Area Gardeners

Newsletter for March 2017



March 7 Meeting

Christ our Savior Church

6:30 Refreshments and Social

6:45 Business meeting

7:00 Program

"Incredible Bats"



This program will dispel all the ugly rumors and help us learn to love our local "incredible bats".

Dan and Sharon Peterson's power point will introduce us to bats of the world, echolocation calls, bats' importance in our gardens and the difficulties facing Illinois bats. The Petersons will also bring two species of fruit bats and an adorable unscented striped skunk for members to pet and cuddle.

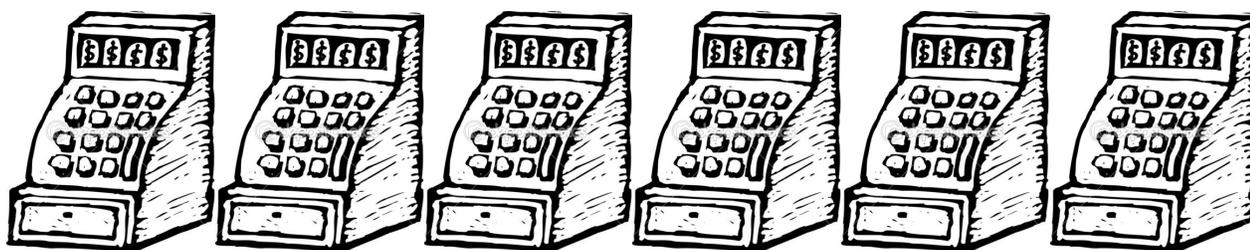
An engaging presentation of a subject that usually causes us to cringe!



A Message from the President:

Are you ready for spring? I rototilled my garden yesterday! I have never seen the ground so dry this early. Normally I prepare my beds on March 30. I drew out my garden plan. I ordered all plants and seeds. Spring will be here soon. I have one very capable volunteer to organize our plant/garage sale but she needs a lot of help. I will send around a volunteer sheet at the March meeting for you to volunteer to help her. Please dig your garage sale plants early so they have time to recover before our June 9-10 sale. These dates are earlier than previous sales. If you need markers or containers for your plants, please let me know. Anyone who has extra containers which can be used for the sale, please bring them with you to the next meeting.

Urban



Dues

WAG dues for 2017 are \$20. I will be collecting them at the March 7 meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, you can mail a check to me at 1713 Childs Street, Wheaton, IL 6087.

Dianne Lambert, Treasurer

March Lawn and Garden Activities

Check and remove any winter damage to trees and shrubs

Rake out dead grass in lawn bare spots, add some topsoil and apply recommended grass seed. If we get rain it should germinate but if not keep wet for three weeks.

Plant new trees and shrubs as soon as the ground thaws.

Cut off pampas grass mounds, discard, and then spread compost over each mound.

Check lawn for grub damage as the grass greens up. If dead spots, treat with a grub killer.

Start tomato, broccoli, cauliflower, parsley, eggplant seeds indoors under lights.

Start seeds of ageratum, alyssum, aster, calendula, celosia, marigold, nicotiana, salvia, Sweet William, verbena and other flower seeds under lights.

Cut off and burn or discard asparagus plants from last season.

Apply a dormant oil spray to fruit trees, roses, ornamental shade trees, pine trees, spruce trees, euonymus evergreens and other trees and shrubs as listed on the label. Some plants like maple and birch should not be sprayed. Spray on a warm day when evening temperatures will stay above freezing.

Cut back red and yellow raspberry plants to 3-4 feet of good wood; thin plants to 4-8 inches apart.

Cut back black and purple raspberry plants to 10-12 inch laterals for blacks and 12-18 inches for purples. Remove all diseased, weak canes (those thinner than a pencil) and dead wood.

Discard all prunings.

Prune grapes. Bleeding will not injure the vines.

Urban



Flower of the Month



Daffodils are one of the earliest flowers to bloom in the spring. They are associated with springtime and rebirth. These trumpet-shaped flowers come in a variety of sizes and colors. Traditional daffodils are sunny yellow, but some varieties are white or pastel yellow and some are even pink or green. While the daffodil's primary symbolism is that of new beginnings, rebirth and the coming of spring, it has many others. Some of the most common meanings for the daffodil flower are: Creativity, Inspiration, Renewal and Vitality, Awareness and Inner Reflection, Memory, and Forgiveness.

The daffodil, also called narcissus, gains its name from the Greek god Narcissus. According to legend, Narcissus was so enamored with his own reflection in the river that he drowned trying to capture his reflection. The daffodils growing along stream banks soon became associated with Narcissus and took on his name, probably due to the beauty of their reflected image in the water.

The daffodil has similar uplifting meanings across cultures.

The daffodil symbolizes good fortune in the Chinese culture. It is the official symbol of the Chinese New year. To the Japanese people, the daffodil means mirth and joyousness. In France, the daffodil is a sign of hope. A Welsh legend claims that the person to find the first daffodil bloom will be blessed with more gold than silver in the upcoming year... The Arabians believe the daffodil flower was an aphrodisiac and cure for baldness. The medieval Europeans believed that if your gaze caused a daffodil to droop it was an omen of impending death. In the United States, the daffodil is the official symbol for the American Cancer Society, symbolizing hope for a cure. It is also the flower for the month of March and the symbol of the 10th wedding anniversary.



Meet Your Board

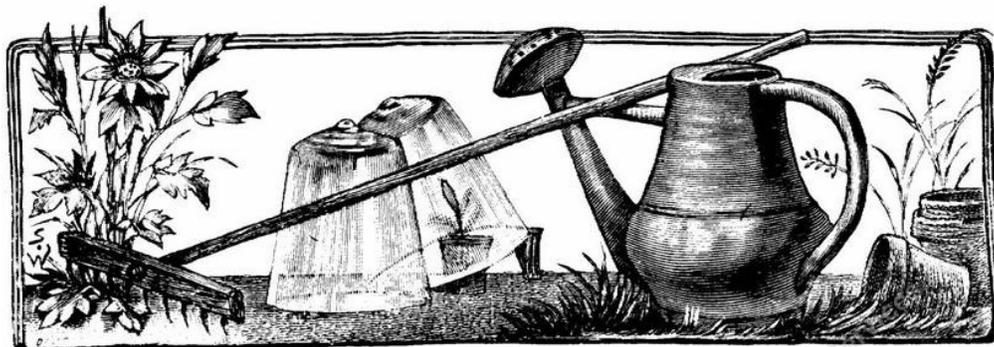
Urban Oen, President

Urban Oen, along with Sylvia, his wife of forty-four years, lives in West Chicago. He is a man with many titles. To us, he is President. To his family he is Son, Brother, Father, Husband, Nephew, Uncle, and Grandfather. To his former students he is Teacher and Professor. But, there is one title I did not know about. Urban has earned a Ph.D, so we could call him Doctor.

Along with Urban's many titles go many talents. As a youth, growing up in western Ohio, he tended his family's chickens and calves. He was one of ten children, and they all had jobs to do on the family's hog, dairy and beef farm. After he completed his undergrad education at Ohio State, he earned his Ph.D. at Michigan State. Urban taught high school for five years and later educational courses at a variety of universities for twenty years. He continued teaching at College of DuPage and Triton Junior College teaching turf grass growth and maintenance and plant science.

Urban's gardening skills are well documented. He maintains a large vegetable and fruit garden. When asked what he does with all the produce, he replied, "I give it away." And give it away he does, much of it goes to the township food bank or to a home for retired Priests. He is most proud of his past position at St John's Church as food coordinator for Hesus House. He is active in other capacities at St John's and serves as a superintendent and judge of vegetables at the DuPage County Fair.

Being a volunteer is nothing new to Urban, and neither is being a President of an organization. He has served as President of Lisle Lyons Club, Knights of Columbus, and a Homeowners Association. He was moderator of Wayne Township Republican Convention, an event attended by four hundred. We are honored that Urban will add to his list of accomplishments the President of Winfield Area Gardeners.



WAG Plant, Garage and Bake Sale

As they say, "It's never too early!! And in this year's Sale case, we aren't too early!

June 9-10 are the dates! And as my Mom used to say, "We better get cuttin!"

So, to let you know...we will follow the same plan as last year. (Thank you again, Pat Willis.) But will add, again, our Bakery Table. So please keep that in mind!

Hopefully, we will be able to split plants, etc. so that they have a good month to acclimate to their pots. That is very important for them to look their best at SALE time.

Please keep a good look out for your best Garage Sale items. They always draw some good shoppers as well.

We were successful at our SALE last year and will depend on a whole group effort to make this one great as well. You know of course that we need these funds to support the wonderful monthly programs that we have. Our dues simply don't cover it all.

So, I humbly submit, to do my best at coordinating things again this year with your support.

More (much more) to follow!

Planning for our Spring Planting at Creekside Park

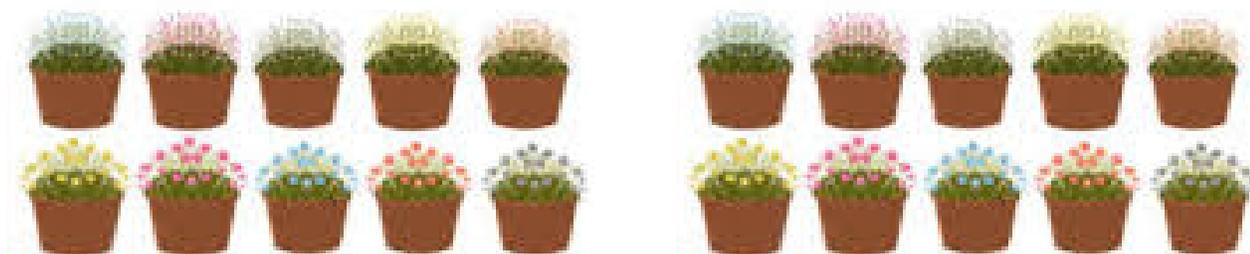
I am beginning to gather "plant flower plugs" from the folks at Cantigny through their Community Program. I am asking that you try to save gallon jugs for me so that I can cut them down and use them to transplant these tiny plugs when they outgrow their home. I'll collect them at the March and April meetings. Thank you very much.

Patti Loechl

This and That

Remember to save gallon milk and water jugs for Patti to transplant plugs.

Check out your perennials for separating and start potting up extras for our plant sale AND sort through your extra pots for sharing with others if they need them.



Save the Date - Saturday, July 15, 2017! Brunch at Ball Gardens at the Ball Horticulture Gardens in West Chicago. Gardens are located at 622 Town Rd. Great food, Live Music, Silent Auction, and Great People (You)! Add sunshine and beautiful plants, this makes a great day and outing. Bring friends, families, neighbors, and new friends. The gardens are wheelchair, etc. accessible. Brunch is served indoors! Guided tours are provided by Master Gardeners from the Extension. Music is provided by 4-Her's and others.

Help wanted..... Have you always wanted to be a cub reporter? Are you always combing through the newspaper looking for interesting things to do? Would you like to interview our Board Members to share them with our membership? If you answered yes to any one of the above questions or can think of an interesting addition to our monthly newsletter... **WE NEED YOU!** Please contact me (Anita) at 630-293-3204 and volunteer or let me know at the meeting.

Member Sharing

Help with garden clean-up and other household tasks is available on Saturday, April 8th. A Community Work Day will be sponsored by the Office of Christian Outreach at Wheaton College. Students will be working to raise money for their ministry projects. They are available for a half day (8 am-12 pm or 1 pm-5 pm) or full day (8 am-5 pm). Minimum wage per hour per worker is \$8.25. Any amount above that is tax-deductible. Call # 630-752-5076 to sign up (by March 17th). Julie Nowack has hired students on previous work days to spread mulch and do garden clean-up. She was very pleased with their efforts!

Julie Nowack

We had a beautiful spring like day for our luncheon with a total of 30 members attending and one new member, Lisa Gabriel, joining us on Sunday. Great lunch conversation and a beautiful installation of the new officers was presented by Anita Elbe. Anita chose a flower theme and presented different flowers to the officers with a little speech about the meaning of each flower. Great research Anita! Big thank you to Anita for the presentation and bringing the flowers, Julie Nowack and Dianne Lambert for finding a beautiful Teapot with a Hummingbird for Anita, Anna Saake for making Anita a beautiful corsage, Barb Whitney for driving out with me to pick the menu and make the reservations, Dianne Lambert for taking care of the money, and Sue Jansen and the whole board for their input in the planning stages. Thank you all!

Carol Robin

This page is an opportunity for you to submit articles of interest to our membership. Submissions should be made to aj3204@comcast.net two weeks before our meetings. Thanks! *Anita, Editor*

Organic Fruit Tree Spray Guide

By Urban T. Oen Ph.D.

2/27/17

When spraying apple and pear trees you are trying to control the Codling Moth, Apple Maggots, and different funguses. These sprays can also be used on other fruits and vegetables in your garden.

Pre-Bloom Sprays (before flowering). This is the green tip stage. – Use a dormant oil spray. This spray is to kill insect eggs. It can be applied in the late fall or early spring when the evening temperature will not drop below 32 degrees (I prefer 40 degrees). Dormant oil is available from garden stores or from catalogs. Barn Owl on Gary Avenue carries this.

Seven days after applying the dormant oil, apply a fungicide such as Serenade or Plant Guardian.

At the pink flower stage (when blooms show pink color but are not yet open, apply a fungicide such as Serenade or Plant Guardian and an insecticide such as Garden Insect Spray or Bulls Eye. Pyola can also be used to kill insects but not when the weather gets hot.

Do not apply any sprays during bloom as you will kill the honey bees and other pollinators.

Post Bloom Sprays (after flowering) – Mix and apply Serenade and Garden Insect Spray or Plant Guardian and Bulls-Eye or Pyola.

Every 14 days or less if a lot of rain, mix and apply Serenade and Garden Insect Spray or Plant Guardian and Bulls-Eye.

NOTE: The sprays recommended here are from the Barn Owl, Gardens Alive.com and Spray-N-Grow.com. These three sources also have a lot of other good products for your garden. Barn Owl also has organic fertilizer for your vegetable garden and lawn.



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Upcoming events outside of the club:

The Growing Place for information www.thegrowingplace.com

March 11, 2017 -- 5 SPOTS LEFT

The Well Designed Flower Garden

11am: Right Plant, Right Place

Learn how to layer plant and flower sizes, shapes and textures to contribute to a delightful garden design. We'll also take into consideration the reality of living in Chicagoland and the need for 4 seasons of interest. Cost: \$5

1pm: **Crazy for Color**

Explore why different combinations create entirely different moods and themes as you take a virtual walk through our many artistic sample gardens that shift from the salsa of hot colors to the soft melodies of pastels. Cost: \$5

March 18, 2017

The Lazy Gardener

11am: Terrific Flowering Shrubs and Small Ornamental Trees

Find out about a wealth of easy to grow woody plants that also give you a flower show. Cost: \$5

1pm: **Ornamental Grasses and other Easy Care Perennials**

Learn about these tried and true, minimal maintenance garden workhorses. Cost: \$5

2017 Bare Root Selections from the Growing Place

You can reserve your tree at either location. Call 630.355.4000 or 630.820.8088 to pre-order. Payment is required at time of order. Quantities are limited and available on a first come first serve basis.

The Chicago Flower and Garden Show

Runs from March 18 – 26 at Navy Pier

Chicago Botanical Gardens, 10,000 Orchid Show runs through March 26, 2017

Right Plant, Right Place: Healthy Plants, Less Maintenance is a free program to be offered at the [Winfield Library](#) on March 28 at 7:00 p.m. Master gardener Judi Davenport will give helpful tips on how to select and care for your plants with less work. Call # 630-653-7599 to register.

Upcoming events outside of the club cont':

Morton Arboreteum for information www.mortonarb.org

Edible Gardening Workshop Series, Saturdays, March 11 – April 8, 9:30 to 12 noon. Whether you are starting your first garden or incorporating edibles into your landscape. Purchase workshops individually. \$35 member \$44 non-member each class.

Forest therapy walks Mondays and Saturdays through March 25th.

Bathe the senses in a mindful walk with a certified forest therapy guide 9:30 to 12:30 pm. Walks conclude with tea made from edible plants foraged along the trail. Cost \$25 per class.

Cantigny Park For information www.cantigny.org

Greenhouse Tour Spring Bedding Plants, March 7, 11 to 12 noon. Free with \$5.00 parking.

Bird Walk - Saturday, March 11, 8:30 to 11 am Spot early spring birds.

Midwest Fruit Explorers Grafting Session for Beginners – March 19, 1 to 2:30 pm. Learn about grafting fruit trees.

Garden Tour – Tuesday, April 4, 11 am to 12 noon
Flowering Trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

The DuPage Friends of Extension

Save the Date - Saturday, April 8, 2017! Silent Auction Fundraiser-Gardeners' Christmas in April, at the Extension office, 1100 E. Warrenville Rd., Naperville, IL. Auction items include various garden items (including gift certificates from local nurseries), restaurants dining certificates, gift baskets, spa services, and more! . There are also 2 presentations - Invasive Species and Your Garden; Birds and Butterflies. Light refreshments are served. Master Gardeners and Extension Educators are available to answer your gardening questions.

Programs for 2017

February 20	Luncheon	July 11	TBA
March 7	Incredible Bats Dan Peterson	August 1	TBA
April 4	Houseplants, Our Friends Ken Benson	Sept 5	TBA Member Mum Sale
May 2	Container Vegetable Gardening Michael Annes	October 3	Pleasures & Rewards of Drying Flowers – Carol Buchner
June 6	Dazzling, Delightful, Delicious Daylilies – Greg Bartoshuk	November 7	Forcing Bulbs (make and take) Bill Karges
June 9 & 10 Creekside Park	Plant and Garage sale Creekside Park	December 5	Holiday Party & Potluck dinner Community Project

CLUB INFORMATION

Membership information
 Dues for 2016: \$20 per person
 Meetings February – Dec
 Regular: 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
 Board: 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
 Regular meeting location
 Christ Our Savior Church
 501 Summit Ave, Winfield

OFFICERS:

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joan.mruk@yahoo.com
 Marilyn Sweeny 630-668-8558
Marilyn.Sweeny@gmail.com
2nd Vice President (membership) – Julie Nowack
 630-665-6086; jngreenthumb@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Dianne Lambert
 630-668-3269, didalamb@comcast.net
Secretary – Barbara Whitney
 630-231-0320; barbara.whitney001@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor – Anita Elbe 630-293-3204
 Submissions due two weeks before the meeting
aj3204@comcast.net

Birthdays for March

Anna Saake **13**
Patty Donahue **16**
Edna Wollenberg **29**

Common sense
 is a flower
 that does
 not grow
 in everyone's
 garden!



QuotesIdeas.com