



THE WEEDERS DIGEST

ROLLING MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER September 2018

GARDEN CLUB MEETING – SEPTEMBER 12
SOCIAL TIME 6:00 pm – MEETING 6:30 pm
ROLLING MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB WEB SITE – www.rollingmeadowsgardenclub.org.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT – Carol Ohrn
VICE-PRESIDENT – Marie Soyka
SECRETARY – Katie Lukowski
TREASURER – Ron Willer



ROLLING MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB

Our mission is to encourage the knowledge and love of gardening through educational meetings and field trips, and to contribute to the community through civic beautification, awards and annual events.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sharol Florey 9/4
Marie Soyka 9/5
Debbie Danek 9/10
Carol Flemming 9/12
Shirley Weismann 9/21



“DESPITE THE GARDENER’S BET INTENTIONS, NATURE WILL IMPROVISE”
MICHAEL P. GAROFALO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great picnic we had this year! With nearly 30 people in attendance, we all had great conversations, wonderful food and really good weather. Thanks to those who attended and for the wonderful dishes that were shared.

Autumn is just around the corner and soon we'll be putting our gardens to bed. I've already been thinking about some changes for next year in my yard. Perhaps you have too. It seems like our gardens are ever changing, yet when we paint the interior of our homes we live with that color for many years. Why is that???

We still have several members on the mend following surgery. Gerry Glore recovering from open heart surgery and Bonnie Meyer from shoulder repair. We all continue to wish them a speedy recovery back to good health.

Carol O.



COMMITTEES:

COMMUNITY SERVICE –

Includes but not limited to:
Farmers Market, Welcome Planters,
Mary's Garden, 4th of July Parade

EVENTS –

Outings, dinners & any other social event
other than regular meetings.

GARDEN WALK

COMMITTEES CONT:

HOSPITALITY

Refreshments & greeting cards

MEMBERSHIP

NOMINATING

PLANT & CRAFT SALE

PROGRAMS –

Monthly speakers or activities

PUBLICITY / MARKETING

MEMBERS NEWS

Gerry Glore had heart surgery and is home getting home physical care after spending 7 days in the hospital.

Bonnie Meyer said that it was a little rough after the surgery but she is getting therapy and improving. She will try to be at the next meeting but she is still not allowed to drive.

OPINIONS



Your opinions are most welcome. If you would like your opinion or article in the newsletter, just send it to me or give me a call.

Shirley

SEPTEMBER GARDENING

This is the season for paper wasps and yellow jackets. Just remember that they are beneficial.

You can begin lowering the lawn mower blade as we head into fall because there is more rain.

Also with the rain and cool nights, it is a good time to seed the lawn or put in sod.

There is still time to divide perennials because the roots will still have time to get established. You can still pot up perennials and sink them in the ground for the winter for the Garden Club Plant Sale.

Keep perennial plants, trees and shrubs from drying out before winter especially the evergreens.

Dig up tender bulbs by the end of the month if winter is coming early.

Plant spring bulbs in Sept. or early Oct.

Harvest time for tomatoes, peppers and hot season vegetables.

You can pull up annual milkweed plants after they finish blooming. Remember migrating Monarchs need the nectar from flowers to have strength for their trip.

Harvest seeds for next year from your plants. Make sure they are ripe. They should be dry on the plant or pods should split open before you take them.

Perennial common milkweed stalks should be cut off after they are dead and not while they are green. Dead hollow milkweed stems harbor unwanted insects over the winter.

TRIPS & EVENTS

Sept. 7 - Japanese Garden in Rockford – Contact Heidi for more information.

PLANTS YOU MAY NOT WANT IN YOUR YARD

Chameleon Ground Cover – A very attractive plant with colorful leaves that are never chewed up by bugs. That is because they have a distinctive unusual fragrance if you cut them. They do die back in the late fall and are spread by deep underground runners. They are highly invasive. They work great in a contained garden that has an underground barrier.

Bishop Weed – A patch of it really looks nice with its green and white variegated leaves in the spring and early summer. It gets a flower similar to Queen Ann's Lace. It spreads by underground runners and seeds and is very invasive. It tends to brown out in dry weather and dies back in the fall.

Periwinkle (Vinca Minor) - A very tough vine and a ground cover and is evergreen. The leaves are a dark shiny green and is very pretty when it is blooming with small purple flowers. It is invasive once it gets established. As a ground cover, all the creepers send out tough roots and more runners. It is drought resistant, controls weeds and is hard to remove.

Yellow Arkangel – Yellow Arkangel is attractive with or without its yellow flower and has a variegated leaf. It is also very fast growing and can take over a garden in no time at all.

Trumpet Vine – The orange flowers of the vine attract humming birds when it is blooming and it is a beautiful vine in the right place away from everything. It is fast growing and spreads by underground runners. If you dig it up to get rid of it, it will still come up far from where it was planted even after 30 years.

Bittersweet Vine – The vine is very fast growing and has orange berries in the fall. If it is planted near trees it will grow up into the trees by reaching for the branches and eventually cover the trees. It is considered invasive even though the berries are used for decorations.

Kiwi Vine – The Kiwi Vine grows very fast once it is established and get a very heavy trunk. Its leaves are shiny and does not attract a lot of bugs. It is a beautiful vine but planted near the house and power lines can be a real problem. It is not invasive but It requires a lot of trimming. Out in the open on a trellis, it would be maintenance free. You will never get any fruit because the squirrels take them before they are ripe.

Ribbon Grass – This is a variegated grass that grows in shade or sun but does best in the sun. It is highly invasive unless grown by itself in a contained area but it is hard to keep other grasses weeded out. It dies back in the fall.

In case you haven't already guessed, I have first-hand knowledge of all of these plants. I mistakenly planted every one of these plants in my yard, and I am being overrun with them. The catalog pictures of these plants make them look desirable and they do not tell you that they are invasive. I bought all of these plants during my working years when I did not have the time nor the means to investigate them. My only solution was to join the National Wildlife Association and put out a sign. I really would like an English Garden but my plants won't let me. And did I mention that I grew up on Rose St. and so I dug up and planted a wild rose in my yard. The wild rose was our town's flower and it grew everywhere. Now I know why.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY NEWS

Janice, Ron, Laurie and Shirley released 350 Monarch butterflies in August Total so far for the season 862. Last year at this time we released 621.



Thanks to Janice, Ron, my neighbor and my niece I was able to raise the Monarch caterpillars this year. They all supplied me with milkweed especially Janice who kept up a steady supply but disaster struck in Aug. I lost all of my Aug. caterpillars to a bacteria but again Janice came to the rescue. She had a terrific Aug. and released most of the butterflies for this month. That is very time consuming. Thanks Janice.

From Rob Banger



Beekeeping has been slow after the excitement in July. Jackson checked all the hives tonight and said not much additional honeycomb has been produced. The new hive on Starling will have to be supplemented by its twin over the winter most likely. The good news with our hives (and Ron's) is that mite presence is low. More good news: I had a prospective new beekeeper visit the backyard hives over the weekend and he stated he is almost certain he will start a hive in the spring. Our next step in a few weeks will be harvesting what honey we can and then we'll start treating for mites afterwards.

POLLINATORS NEWS

From Garden Clubs of Illinois (GCI):

Update on Butterfly License Plate Decal

Of the 2000 requests (& \$10.00 fee) needed by the state, only 525 responses have been received. If you have an interest in this license plate decal, please download the application at www.ilenviro.org/monarch/. Project will close in September.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 4th Environmental Committee meeting 6:30pm in City Hall Room 230

Friday, September 7th Fridays Rock & Roll in Meadows, 7-10pm in Kimball Hill Park

Tuesday, September 11th Senior Luncheon 12:30-2:30 Community Center, 3705 Pheasant Drive

Sunday, September 16th Park District Rollin' in the Meadows 5K Run

Saturday, September 22nd Farmers & Food Trucks City Market, 10-2pm Comm. Church 2720 Kirchoff

Friday, September 28th Park District Brew Fest at Community Center

ROLLING MEADOWS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Meeting every first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm on the second floor of City Hall. You do not have to be a member to attend and all ideas are welcome. You can also visit them on Facebook.

