



# THE WEEDERS DIGEST

ROLLING MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

GARDEN CLUB MEETING – APRIL 10  
SOCIAL TIME 6:00 – MEETING 6:30

ROLLING MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB WEB SITE  
[www.rollingmeadowsgardenclub.org](http://www.rollingmeadowsgardenclub.org).



## OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT – Carol Ohrn  
VICE-PRESIDENT – Marie Soyka  
SECRETARY – Katie Schroeder  
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.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday*

Ron Willer 4/20  
Cecilia Sanchez 4/22



**“IN THE SPRING, AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU SHOULD SMELL LIKE DIRT.”  
MARGARET ATWOOD**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy Spring! It seems to be moving in on us very slowly! Daffodils and crocus are popping up and soon everything will be budding out. You know what that means? Get your garden gloves ready, tools sharpened and start planning. That's right – planning not planting! Maybe it's dividing plants for our plant sale or relocating something that has outgrown its' original spot. And sure, there will be planting, but the planning comes first.

Speaking of planning, this month we will finalize our plans for the Plant & Craft Sale. Bringing in more perennials and some extra hanging baskets, hopefully it will be our best year yet! Your support of this fundraiser is greatly appreciated. Any involvement, whether large or small, will not go unnoticed.

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**

**EVENTS & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

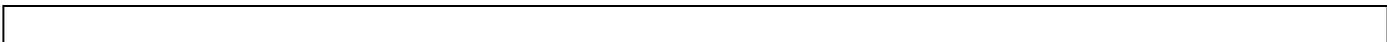
April 12 – Fish Fry at St. Thomas of Villanova , 1201 E. Anderson Dr., Palatine, IL.60074 at 6:00 pm.  
Sign up sheet will be available at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Friday, 3/29, at Eddie's Fish Fry was a good time! 11 members were there. The place was packed and the food was great! Most had the fish, a few ordered off the menu. Very loud, so a bit difficult to have any conversation besides with who was sitting next to you, but a fun time none the less.

Carol O.

**APRIL SPEAKER**

No Speaker - Plant Sale Planning Meeting



## MARCH SPEAKER REVIEW

### From, Ron Willer

"Lazy Gardener" Cindy Tyley gave us many time- and labor-saving ideas that we can all use while we garden, broken down by seasons:

#### Springtime:

Clean and sharpened tools decrease the effort to use them

Showed us an oversized trowel (Wilcox All-Pro #300) that can be used while you're sitting - 30" long, stainless steel with a comfortable plastic grip

Splits garden soil bags in half, to make two more easily-carried, "lighter" bags to work with

If frost is predicted, add tomato cages over delicate plantings, and place old pillow cases over them, and secure with binder clips

Hangs a "kit" onto her lawnmower handle, to deal w issues WHILE you're mowing, rather than going back later - bucket holding a knife, plant ties, pruner, w wipes to disinfect any tools/hands that touched any diseased plants

Uses an ironing board to raise/lower seed-starting trays under stationary light fixtures, rather than moving the lights themselves

#### Summer:

Before mulching a flower bed, place over-turned pots onto just-planted flowers to shield them from being covered with mulch. When done shoveling the mulch, just remove the pots, and the plants will be "clean"

Use coffee filters to cover drain holes in planters, instead of landscape fabric

Use denture cleaner to remove old mineral build-ups on pot-bottoms (less caustic than CLR)

Use plastic "drip-plates" under your plants in hanging baskets, to keep a little water present after watering - otherwise they dry out very quickly during hot weather

#### Fall:

When planting bulbs for the spring, add grape hyacinth bulbs to your groupings, since they bloom twice - in the spring, and again in fall, to identify your normally "dormant" tulip beds at that time - then you don't accidentally dig up other bulbs

Place a copy of your plat of survey inside a sheet protector, then use stick-on "dots" or grease pencils to label items in your garden (journaling)

#### Winter: Several ideas while we can't be outside

Place greens (pine sprigs) inside clear ornaments to add color to your house/Christmas tree

Use travel-size "sticky" lint rollers to remove white fly eggs from leaf undersides

Fill inexpensive light globes w concrete to make decorative garden accents (have to "break" the globes to release the concrete "balls") - be careful w the shards!

Turn tomato cages upside down, gather the three "insertion" stakes together, then insert into a drapery rod-end, to make a topiary support for next year's plants

## MEMBERS NEWS

Gloria Huberty had a mild stroke and spent a few days in the hospital. She is now recovering at home with numerous visits from health care and therapy nurses.



We love getting plants from our Garden Club members and their friends for our Plant Sale. Below are some “guidelines” we’d appreciate you following to ease your preparation and help our Garden Club get the most profit we can while giving our customers high quality, member grown plants.

#### GUIDELINES – for digging up and potting plants

Plan Ahead. Perennials should be dug up and potted NO LATER THAN APRIL 27th. This will allow the plants to “settle in” into their pots. Be sure they are watered regularly and receive sufficient sun/shade so they can acclimate to their potted home. The more attractive the plants are the better they sell. To minimize the mess, put a piece of newspaper or a new coffee filter in the bottom of the pot to cover the holes so the dirt doesn’t fall out. Please label the plants. Include name of plant, sun or shade, bloom time/color, height and spread.

Potted/Labeled perennials need to be dropped off at the Plant Sale site, 3200 Central Road (next to the historical museum) on Friday, May 10th between 1:00 & 3:00 OR no later than 8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 11th.

It takes our ENTIRE Garden Club to make the Sale a success.

Thanks for being a part of this great event!

#### THE PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

#### MONARCH BUTTERFLY NEWS



Good news - the number of Monarchs overwintering in Mexico is up 144%. Last year they covered 15 acres and the year before 6 acres. The goal is 44 acres. Bad news – the number of Monarchs overwintering on the West Coast is down 99%. I’m sure it is because of all of the fires.

There seems to be a lot of controversy about Tropical milkweed not being good for the Monarch butterfly. The reason being that in the warmer climates the tropical milkweed does not die, becomes invasive and the Monarchs stay and continue to lay eggs. The spores carrying disease that are on the milkweed also do not die and infect the caterpillars, and the Monarchs returning from Mexico to the U.S in the spring. The butterflies that migrate north carry the spores with them. The Monarch enthusiasts in the southern states are trying to get the people that grow tropical milkweed to pull the plant out at the end of the season. Apparently most of it is in residential gardens. The plant is not a problem here and is grown by people that do not want common milkweed in their garden because it is considered invasive. Tropical milkweed here dies off in the winter. The only problem with it is that the leaves are small and you have to have more than one plant to feed the caterpillars. Otherwise it is a beneficial plant here in the north and an attractive plant in the garden because both the caterpillar and the butterfly benefit from it and it blooms all summer into fall.

## Plant Ideas by Debbie Danek

### Best Early Spring Pollinating Trees

As our weather starts to warm up we may start to see some insects flying around eager looking for food. Early spring nectar is important for early emerging queen bumblebees and other solitary bees, butterflies, and beetles. Here are some suggestions by Monrovia that will attract these pollinators into our gardens.



**Magnolia stellata (Royal Star Magnolia-)** White star flowers appear before foliage emerges. Up to 15' tall and 12' wide. Likes full sun.



**Cornus mas (Cornelian Cherry Dogwood)**-Bees love this one! It grows 20' tall and wide and is grown as a multi stemmed shrub or small tree. Bright yellow flowers.

Multi-stemmed, habit. Neat it has fragrant, sites or poorly lasting. Tough,



**Hamamelis (Witchhazel) vernalis (Vernal Witchhazel)** rounded spreading form. Medium texture. Compact growth appearance. Good selection for some late winter interest, as yellow-red blooms which appear in March. Can handle gravel drained clay soils. Consistent yellow fall color is very long durable plant. Grows 6'-10' high and wide.



The Plant Sale volunteer sign-up sheets will be passed around at the April meeting. If you are unable to attend this meeting and want to volunteer, please call Sharon, Carol Ohrn or Carol Flemming.

We will need help on Friday, 5/10, unloading, sorting and placing plants on appropriate tables. Plants will need to be watered. Also placement of signage.

Saturday volunteer positions include:

Crowd control (keep buyers out of building before 9:00 a.m.) and Greeter after 9:00

Holding Area

Plant Sellers

Clean up at 2:00 p.m.



During our speakers, please no talking! Before our meeting or during the break between meeting & speaker is our time to socialize. Please respect the speaker and the members around you! Thank you !

### MEMBERS STORIES

#### Rob Banger

Around four years ago, after several trips back and forth to the farm in Iowa (sometimes taking backyard perennials to my friend across the gravel road), I noticed a stranger in my own back yard. I was a stop on the garden walk that year and asked some of the garden club members what it was. I forgot who identified it as common mullein, but they were correct. This plant, also known as "cowboy toilet paper", is a biennial that dies off after it flowers the second year. After the initial plant popped up, each spring we've noticed additional ones and this year I anticipate a dozen or so in the back yard. It's a neat plant that also attracts pollinators, so it fits well in our back yard. I can only guess that it came back after a trip to the farm on an implement I used or something we accumulated while out there. These are pictures from a website, but this is exactly what ours look like.



**Anyone have any personal experiences old or new about gardening or wildlife? Write it up and send it to me for the newsletter or call me. Shirley**

**From Carol O.**

Why normal people don't let gardeners drive:



Joseph Tychonievich

### APRIL GARDENING

For seeds that require warm soil test the garden soil for warmth by walking on it barefoot. If your toes are cold, it is not warm enough to plant. (I didn't make this up.)

If you use a weed seed preventer like Preen, do not use it in your garden where you rely on flowers that reseed. Preen kills all seeds. It should also not be used near ponds because the runoff is toxic to aquatic life.

If you use a fertilizer in the spring, be sure to check if it contains a systemic pesticide. The pesticide is absorbed by the roots of the plant and it becomes part of the plant. It will kill anything that eats the plant and that is not good for pollinators.

Time to:

- ✓ Remove winter mulch
- ✓ Remove dead plants
- ✓ Plant cold season vegetables like cabbage, peas, carrots, Kale, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, leeks, chive, radishes, swiss chard and spinach.
- ✓ Divide perennials but not the ones that bloom in the spring.
- ✓ Deadhead spring bloomers but do not remove the foliage as it feeds the bulb for the following year.
- ✓ Plant trees, shrubs and roses.
- ✓ Plant cool-season flowers like pansies.
- ✓ Prune roses when they start to grow.
- ✓ Prune evergreens now to late summer but not any later.
- ✓ Prune spring blooming trees or shrubs **RIGHT AFTER** they finish blooming.



**HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR AREA**  
From Marie Soyka

- April 2            Cantigny Garden Tour, 11 a.m. – parking lot #5 “FREE”  
                         Horticulture expert will discuss Park’s collection of flowering trees, shrubs and  
                         wildflowers. 630-260-8162
- April 4            Cantigny Gardens 2019 Preview – 9 a.m. Free presentation highlighting the  
                         Park’s Plant Selection.
- April 6 & 7        Lurvey’s Garden Center “Spring Garden Fair” – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
                         2550 E. Dempster St, Des Plaines 847-824-7411
- April 6 & 7        Heinz Brothers Greenhouse “Fairy Festival” in St. Charles  
                         [www.heinzbrothers.com](http://www.heinzbrothers.com).
- April 9            Senior Center Outing – Garfield Park Conservatory 9:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.  
                         Members \$30 – non-members \$40
- April 13,           9:30 am.....Leslie Goddard portraying Rachel Carson  
                         Rachel was a scientist & author of “Silent Spring”,  
                         A wake-up call about the dangers of pesticide DDT.  
                         Barrington Village Hall \$10. fee  
                         Register at 847-382-7283
- April 16 & 17     AARP Driver Safety Program 9:30-1:30 both days  
                         Register at Senior Center Office - Members \$15 non-members \$20
- April 20           The Growing Place “Garden Gossip & Coffee” – 11 a.m. “FREE”  
                         Take a guided walk through the gardens with perennial manager.  
                         2000 Montgomery Rd, Aurora 630-820-8088
- April 22           Earth Day  
                         Rich’s Foxwillow Pines Nursery – specializing in unique conifers and rare trees.  
                         11618 McConnell Rd, Woodstock 815-338-7442 (closed on Sunday)  
                         After 31 years in business, 2019 will be their final year open.
- April 25           Rolling Meadows Community Showcase 5pm-8pm “Free”  
                         Meridian Banquets, 1701 W Algonquin Rd, Rolling Meadows  
                         Showcasing local businesses and restaurants. This is a Community Events project.