

DISTRICT II CLUB REPORTS

Bloomington Garden Club welcomes visitors to our programs on the third Tuesday of every month. We were busy this summer planting and harvesting produce and flowers from our community garden which we donated to our local food pantry. We also helped residents of DuPage Care Center plant gardens onsite.

Fall programs: September 16th - casual indoor potluck picnic; October 21th - Jeff Schulz will be teaching us designing and caring for bonsai; November 18th - Christmas Craft donation project; December - Christmas Party. Social time and announcements begin at 6:30 PM with presentations starting at 7 PM. We meet at Cornerstone Faith Community Church, 118 First Street, Bloomington, IL 60108. For more information, visit www.bloomingtongardenclub.org.

The Bolingbrook Garden Club has monthly meetings and programs on the second Thursday of each month from September through June. We are looking forward to September 11th when our monthly meetings and programs start up again. We will continue to harvest produce from our plots in the Bolingbrook Community gardens. We are hoping the growing season extends well into the fall as we donate all of the fresh produce we grow to the West Suburban Community Pantry. In October, we will be winterizing our perennials for next year's plant sale. One of our members allows us to do this in her vacant vegetable garden. The club is planning on taking part in the Village Halloween event and the Village Annual Winter Holiday Walk. We will again be making porch pots to sell on line. We had a very successful first year last November. We sold 61 pots. The club is hoping to make and sell 120 pots this year. We have been getting several donations throughout the year, so our costs is low. This allows us to donate all the proceeds from the sale of these pots to help feed the families of the West Suburban Community Pantry for the holidays. In December, we will be electing new officers and we will celebrate the season with our annual holiday party. For more information about our club, please visit our website at Bolingbrookgardenclub.org or at Facebook at facebook.com/bgc1993/.

Cress Creek Garden Club (CCGC) of Naperville is proud to be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2025! With a membership of 113, the club hosts a popular fundraiser (Make It Bake It) held every year in November; are involved with several community plantings; help college-bound students with scholarships; donate to several local charitable organizations and hold a yearly plant sale in May. In 2025, Cress Creek Garden Club awarded \$24,500.00 in scholarships to students seeking higher education in fields related to horticulture, environmental and landscape design. The club's charitable contributions totaled \$16,000.00 to support several local organizations aligned with their purpose. Various members lead or assisted in the 2025 plantings of public gardens at DuPage Children's Museum, Trinity House (a home for disabled adults), Veterans Park, Naperville's VFW (at the base of the Blue Star Marker), Almost Home Kids and the garden beds at Naper Settlement...all funded by Cress Creek Garden Club. Much work is being accomplished for CCGC's November fundraiser during the summer. This year's theme is "Hats Off to 50 Years of Giving" and will be held on Friday, November 14, 2025. The event includes a silent auction, several raffles, bakery items, a shopping boutique and a

luncheon for all attendees. Last year, the club had a record attendance of 366! CCGC is a member of the Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. (GCI) based in Elmhurst. It's through GCI where Cress Creek competes with other garden clubs in the state with awards. If successful, they also compete on a regional and a national basis. This year, GCI awarded CCGC with their "Garden Club of the Year" award. This is based on winning several awards and qualifying to have awards submitted for national competition...which they also won! The members of Cress Creek Garden Club continue to promote the club's purpose to encourage beautification and improvement of Naperville and surrounding communities, stimulate gardening interests, develop horticulture knowledge, support conservation, provide scholarships for students and support local charities. Keep up the great work!

Crestview Garden Club of Elmhurst Please join us at one of our upcoming meetings:

Sept. 9: Winter Interest, Carol Cichorski;

Oct. 7: Tall Grasses, Cindy Crosby

Nov. 4: Flower Arrangements, Carousel Flowers.

Meetings at 7 p.m., Community Bank of Elmhurst, 330 W. Butterfield/Spring Rd., Elmhurst.

For more info on our club: <https://www.crestviewgardenclub.com>

Darien Garden Club

May was a busy month with our Plant sale held on May 17 which was very successful. Followed by our June meeting held at Indian Prairie Public Library (IPPL) where our speaker was Leslie Goddard performing an Historical portrayal of Lady Bird Johnson. We sold out tickets at the library! Our new community garden at Garden View Park in Darien has a pollinator garden that we helped design with The Conservation Foundation and it includes 10 raised beds of vegetables and native flowers that members planted and are maintaining. Wild Oaktober will be on Oct 19th at (IPPL). Our Sprouts club will be having a Pickle party on August 24. Save the date! March 7, 2026, is our Symposium where we will host a luncheon and speakers.

ELGIN GARDEN CLUB

The Elgin Garden Club has had a very exciting summer with all of our monthly activities and cleaning up our gardens at our various places. With looking ahead into the fall season, the Elgin Garden club will be attending a program in September in regard to "Witness Trees". Back in the 1800s the surveyors would rely on Witness Trees or "bearing trees" as landmarks for creating early land surveys. In October, we will be discovering the history of the White Hour gardens by invitation from our Late Bloomers Garden Club in Del Webb, Elgin. To keep us connecting through the cooler months, we will be meeting in November to hear about Indigenous Wisdom and how to navigate this in today's world and care for Mother Earth. Lastly, we will be having our yearly holiday luncheon at the Elgin Country Club in early December to celebrate the holidays.

Elmhurst Garden Club

We are busy planning for our Garden Walk & Faire. We are hoping for nice weather. Along with the GW&F, we have many other things going on. We are working diligently in our new Ray

Graham Rain Garden to incorporate activities for our Ray Graham Nature Therapy Clients to enjoy. The clients decorated bird houses to be hung in the garden. They also planted zinnias. We are planning our 100th Year Celebration. Lots of wonderful ideas are being explored. We are also learning about animals in our newly formed Nature Therapy Committee.

Garden Club of Bensenville

Our members were very busy with their annual luncheon and plant sale.

Speakers for fall months:

October- Speaker TBD

November- "We are getting crafty"

December- Holiday party

The Garden Club of Downers Grove:

During the spring and summer, the Club was busy planting and maintaining gardens at the Gregg House Museum, American Legion Blue Star Marker, Maple Grove Park, and Downers Grove historic Main Street cemetery Blue Star Marker and Rigsby garden. At our May meeting, we celebrated the Club's birthday and significant milestone membership anniversaries. We also had an informative presentation by Don White on how to grow and maintain orchids. To celebrate National Garden Week, the Major of Downers Grove proclaimed the event and we co-sponsored with the Downers Grove Library a program presented by Becky Brillon. Becky was in costume and explored with us the history, purpose and impact of Victory Gardens during WWII. The Club also co-sponsored another event with the Gregg House Museum and had a Garden Party and Ice Social. We helped the children make take home flower containers. At our June members only meeting, we had our traditional pot luck luncheon and a mini sale of plants from members' gardens. The Club visited Blumen Gardens in Sycamore, IL and the owner gave us a special program before lunch. And of course, we enjoyed the shopping! Our General meetings are on the third Monday of the month at 12:15 pm at the American Legion Post 80, 4000 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove and we welcome the public to attend. Meetings begin with social time from 12:15 until 12:45 followed by our general meeting which includes updates from our president, treasurer, secretary and chairs. Short presentations are given by our Conservation & Environment and Horticulture chairs and the general meeting concludes with awarding door prizes. Featured programs begin at 1:45 until 3:00. On 9/15, Kiim Hartmann will present "Best Plants for 2025-2026." On 10/20, Alyse Cohen Burman will present "Birds of Prey." The Club's annual Luncheon and Boutique "A Festive Touch" will be on 11/24 at the Carlisle, 435 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard, IL. Micheale will present "Designs by Heritage House." In December, the Club will have a holiday luncheon at a local restaurant. For more information on our spring/summer events, visit our website and "like us" on Facebook.

<https://www.gardenclubofdownersgrove.net/> <https://www.facebook.com/gardenclubdownersgrove/>

The Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest had a vibrant and fulfilling spring and summer and is looking forward to fall. Our delightful May Luncheon, held at the Oak Park Country Club, embraced the charming theme "Paris – Oh, La La!" Highlights included our traditional Hat Parade, which brought joy to participants and spectators alike, and a fabulous floral design

demonstration. Many lucky members went home with gorgeous arrangements during the event.

Our very successful Garden Walk continues to make a meaningful impact by providing scholarships to three deserving high school seniors—an ongoing tradition we're proud to support. Our "Fridays with Flowers" gatherings remain a member favorite. These casual events, hosted in members' gardens, offer a chance to socialize and enjoy nature together. A particular highlight is the Halloween Friday, where guests arrive in costume to add extra fun. Meanwhile, the Ways and Means Committee is busy preparing for a bake sale at the Oak Park Farmers' Market and organizing our cherished Holiday Bazaar, to be held in December at the Cheney Mansion. To stay informed about upcoming events, visit our website at GCOPRF.ORG or check events on our Facebook page and Instagram #GCOPRF.

Geneva Garden Club opens this Fall season with our traditional August welcome luncheon for members and guests. We are very excited about the upcoming programming starting with What's Up with Our Bees? presented by Pete Soltesz and Kim Kulton in September. October, we will feature Hydrangeas 101 by Heather Prince. How to care for the five shrub species and two vine commonly planted in the Chicago area. In November, Tabletops and Tablesapes by Kathi Rose, who will demonstrate how to combine your interest in floral and landscape design by creating a tablescape that uses China, glassware and floral arrangements to make an event special. Lastly, in December, The Growing Place in Aurora will present Designing for 4 Seasons by Cristin Adam. We will learn about plants that extend the beauty of our gardens.

www.genevagardenclub.com

Grassroots Garden Group, celebrating its 10th year, continues our commitment to making Westchester a more beautiful place to live. Our annual plant sale was held in May, and our 7th annual garden walk took place in July. We continue to collaborate with the village to make improvements to the highly visible town fountain and garden area which is blooming wonderfully with a variety of native plants. A major part of our core mission is supporting the local food pantry. Through our various activities, we've raised over \$40,000 for the pantry. This fall GGG will participate in a variety of workshops, markets and educational programs as we continue to grow together!

La Grange Garden Club - The club meets the first Monday of the month (2nd in Sept. and no January meeting) at 12:15 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. In September members enjoy touring a local garden after our meeting. In October one of our members will do a presentation on the beauty of using bulbs. In November U of I Cook South Suburban Extension Master Gardener Donna Hirsch will talk about "Birthing Butterflies", the lifespan of swallowtail butterflies. In December we'll celebrate with a holiday luncheon at Ruth Lake Country Club and enjoy a floral design demonstration. Members bring gifts for La Grange Rotary's Secret Santa program. www.Lagrangegardenclub.org

Lombard Garden Club

This past May, our annual Lilac sale was one of the quickest sales we have had in our history 130 patrons were lined up well before the 12:00 opening time. Before the end of the first hour the

411 lilac bushes and 10 lilac trees were sold-out. In July we launched a "Countdown to 100" campaign to promote our 2026 Centennial. This campaign includes efforts to educate the community about "who we are" and "what we do". A new Lombard Garden Club Centennial logo was designed for apparel, umbrellas, posters, the 2026 yearbook and many other projects. Fun events are in the works to make our Centennial year a memorable one. We have some great programs lined up for this Fall. September 26th "Fantastic Fall Flowers" by Heather Prince and October 24th "Beginning of Bonsai" by Linda Camp. We wrap up with Bill Karges on November 14th "All About Hydrangeas." All program times begin at 1:00 and guests are welcome to stay for refreshments afterwards.

Pleasantdale Garden Club – is located in Burr Ridge. In September each member will tell the group about some gardening experiences that they encountered during summer, including good, bad or something they learned. In October Theresa Hoffman from Ball Horticultural will speak to us about "How Plants Get to the Market". In November a Master Gardener from the U of I Extension service will speak to us about 'Floriography', The Meaning of Flowers. We'll wrap up the year in December with Stephanie Dolton doing a holiday floral demonstration of a drop in (arrangement that can be added to a planter), a swag, and a hostess gift. We will raffle off these three items at our meeting. Members will also bring home-made cookies to donate to a local retirement home to brighten their holidays. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 AM at the Pleasantdale Park District in Burr Ridge. www.pleasantdalegardenclub.org

The Pottawatomie Garden Club will be winding down its season with a program on Monday September 29 discussing Tablescapes for Thanksgiving and Christmas presented by three of our own very talented members. In October the club will have a member luncheon honoring the new and honorary members and will present a Landscape Commendation Award to a local business. The club will then meet in March of 2026 and have monthly meetings and programs throughout the summer. The public is welcome at the meetings and information can be found at our website pottagardenclub.org

The Schaumburg Community Garden Club had a busy spring and summer with our annual Native Plant Sale and member garden walk. Our monthly meetings featured speakers on the GCI flower shows, Ball Horticultural in West Chicago, how to be more nature-minded with your property, and how to use plants from your garden for fancy drinks. We continued to care for the peony/iris gardens at Schweikher House, the Heritage Garden at our local township hall and our food pantry garden, and we helped a local youth group expand their school club's native garden. Rounding out the year, we'll have a few field trips and speakers on growing dahlias, building container bulb gardens for next spring and holiday decorating. Always fun, we will be running our annual pumpkin decorating event for children at Spring Valley Nature Center's annual autumn festival the first Sunday of October. We end each year with a fun member dinner where we recognize our volunteers for all their valuable time and efforts. Check us out on Facebook and at our website for more information: schaumburggardenclub.org

Tri-Village Garden Club (Bartlett, Hanover Park, Streamwood)

Our club does not meet from June-August, during those months we are very busy working in the four community gardens plus our pantry garden. This year our pantry garden was very productive and we were able to donate a record number of fresh produce.

In May we had our annual Plant Sale which was very successful. This year we added more natives which everyone was very happy to see. In June Diane Greenawalt and Anita Bierbaum met with some of our members and gave us a tutorial about everything there is to know about Flower Shows. It was a huge hit with the members present. In July we held our Member's Only Garden Walk. Five members shared their gardens. At the last garden we had a pot luck picnic. Members started a Seed Library that is located in the Bartlett Library.

Work will continue into the fall to enlarge the sensory garden that was planted last year.

September speaker will be Carol Cichorski speaking about "Fireworks in the Garden a Dazzling Display from Dahlias."

October someone from the Master Gardener Network will talk about indoor herbs and/or container gardening.

December, we celebrate Christmas with a Member's Appreciation Luncheon.

Wayne Countryside Garden Club

It's been a busy summer for the Wayne Countryside Garden Club, with several garden/farm tours, a trip to Ball Horticultural, and an Eco-printing workshop, learning how to create beautiful textiles and paper with colorful blooms from our summer gardens. We were thrilled in June when one of our members- our Civic Chair Doreen DeFilippis- won Wayne's Citizen of the Year for her hard work and dedication to leading the garden club's village beautification efforts. This Fall, we are looking forward having a booth at our local hunt's "Day in the Country" and to hosting a community program with naturalist Kim White where we will learn about all sorts of "creepy crawlies" and what they might be up to in our gardens. We will again host our traditional Pumpkin Patch at Wayne Elementary, where club members will read spooky books to the students, decorate pumpkins for the classrooms, and pass out pumpkins for the students. For more details on events and upcoming programs, please visit us on Facebook or on our website at www.waynecountrysidegardenclub.org

Western Springs Garden Club

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Western Springs Garden Club. In addition to our monthly programs, each general meeting will include an event celebrating our club's anniversary. Our festivities began this summer with visits to the Peabody Mansion and Gardens at Mayslake, the experimental gardens at Ball Horticultural Society, and the gardens at Cantigny. Our monthly programs will begin with a September visit from Bob Zeni, the Chicago Tomato man. He will offer several tips for getting the sweetest and most abundant crop of tomatoes. He'll also display unusual and exotic shapes and colors of tomatoes. We also will include an anniversary group photograph and unveiling of the year's planned celebration activities.

October - Josefina Arnes, Lead Designer from Maria's Flower Shop, will instruct our members on how to grow amaryllis bulbs. In addition, a skit will be performed encapsulating gardening trends, Western Springs Village events, Garden Clubs events, projects, civic involvement, and pop cultural aspects of life in the 20's and 30's.

November - Lee Rosenberg and Cathy Bonaccorsi from the Flower Mamas will assemble holiday centerpieces, and share secrets on how to create eye-catching bouquets. Our sketch presentation will cover the 40's and 50's.

December is our traditional special gathering. It includes a pot luck brunch followed by a workshop to make 200 holiday gifts for an area senior facility. We will also decorate the Village library for the holidays. and continue our weekly placement of floral arrangements in the library lobby.

For the months of December and January, our Club will be highlighted with a 100th Anniversary presentation in the library display case. All are welcome to join us for our casual, friendly gatherings. For more information, visit us at westernspringsgardenclub.org, on Facebook, or contact us at wspringsgardenclub@gmail.org.

The Wheaton Garden Club is celebrating its 100th Anniversary! On May 30, 1925 the Wheaton Garden Club was organized at the House of the Seven Gables by local gentry and women who summered at the Chicago Golf Club. The officers included Amy Adams McCormick (Chicago Tribune), Margaret Morton (Morton Salt), and Nell Fabyan (Riverbank - now Fabyan Forest Preserve).

This year, WGC celebrations began with a festive luncheon in April at the Chicago Golf Club. Two posters, highlighting WGC history and present-day activities, were on display at the Wheaton Public Library and Wheaton City Hall. The City of Wheaton also issued a 100th Anniversary Proclamation in May.

Our program meeting in May, Flower Gardens of the 1920's, was followed by a lovely high tea. At our May Plant sale, nonmember customers were gifted with a plant in honor of our anniversary. Future events include the dedication of a 100th Anniversary bronze planter at Memorial Park in Wheaton. Members will also be staffing a table at the French Market in September providing information about the importance of pollinator gardens. The September meeting will continue our annual plant exchange.

Our October presentation is about Dutch designer Piet Oudolf, whose gardens include Lurie Garden at Millennial Park and High Line in New York City.

The November program is on creating and growing Amaryllis pots for the upcoming holiday season.