

## **District VIII**

### **Cynthia Ritter, GCI District Director**

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The **Oak Lawn Garden Club** was happy to start the New Year with our January meeting. Our speaker was Jerry Ryjewski, who is one of our garden club members. He spoke about recycling and is very knowledgeable about the subject. We all learned something more about what we should or should not recycle.

Stephanie Touzalin, a Wildlife Education Supervisor for the forest preserve district of DuPage spoke about the social structure of coyotes at our February meeting. Their facility in Glen Ellyn has a hospital and 200 volunteers who take care of injured and sick birds and animals. They offer tours of their facility and you can actually observe surgical procedures on the animals and birds. It was very interesting.

The next few months will be very busy for our garden club. Our meeting in March will be on creating pollinator habitats. It will be presented by Dave Brooks.

In April, Sue Fitzgerald, from the Southtown Dahlia Club will be our speaker about how to successfully grow dahlias.

On May 16, our annual plant sale will be held at Wolfe Wildlife Refuge, 109<sup>th</sup> and Laramie, Oak Lawn from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will have a big variety of perennials, annuals, vegetables, and a treasure table of slightly used garden accessories at great prices.

On May 21, the garden club is taking a bus trip to the 12 acre Japanese Gardens in Rockford.

We have our annual pot luck picnic/white elephant sale on June 11 and a good time is had by all.

Our annual garden walk will be held on June 28 where we will feature beautiful and unique gardens in the Oak Lawn area. Tickets will be \$10.00 and can be purchased from garden club members. You can also call Joanne Koplín to purchase a ticket or for information at 708-280-2335.

In July, we have Share my Garden which is for members only to show off their gardens. Have a wonderful spring and summer.