

**PEORIA GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS
2011-2012**

OFFICERS

President Lynn Heath
President Elect (open)
1st Vice Presidents (programs) .. Julie Foley
& Doris Rock
2nd Vice Presidents (membership)
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Corresponding Secretary Sue Gauwitz
Past President..... Fran Kepler

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Social Chairs Marilyn Barker,
Linda Carr, Mary Rose & Dorothy Wilson
Publicity Kathy DeWalt
Civic Projects Susan Naschert
Newsletter/Editor Melanie Martin
Bulk Mailing Lori Gangloff
Ways & Means Letitia Algrain

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Julie Foley - (309) 691-4289
Email: JulieFoley12@yahoo.com
6613 N. Greenmont Rd, Peoria 61614-2409

Doris Rock - (309) 692-2857
Email: rock.c@sbcglobal.net
6017 Ivy Bridge Pl, Peoria 61615-9612

Corresponding Secretary:

Sue Gauwitz, please notify her if you know of any club members who are ill or bereaved. She will send a card from the Peoria Garden Club.
Phone: (309) 691-7112

Green Thumb Editor:

You may send your contributions to **Melanie Martin** by either:
Email: melaniehg@yahoo.com
Phone: (309) 249-4409
Mail: 315 E Santa Fe Road
Chillicothe, IL 61523-9383
(See newsletter deadlines on "Calendar-At-A-Glance" on the back side of each newsletter)

Membership:

Please notify **Rita Lynn** to pay dues, or have an address or phone no. change:
20864 Townline Road, Peoria 61568-8881
Phone: (309) 925-5466
Email: rlynnrcl@verizon.net

Mailing Director:

Lori Gangloff, Please notify her for your contact info changes & "snowbird" address
(309) 444-4563
Email: lorigangloff@hotmail.com
1206 Hillcrest Dr, Washington Il 61571

Peoria GC Website:

Address: www.peoriagardenclub.com
Webmistress: **Rose Marie Bantz**
Email: flower1945@comcast.net

DECEMBER 2011



Holiday Luncheon: Thurs. Dec. 1

Place: Mt. Hawley Country Club, off N. Knoxville
Time: Check-in 11:15 a.m.
Lunch 12:00 p.m.
Program 1:00 p.m.

Program: "Dazzling Christmas"

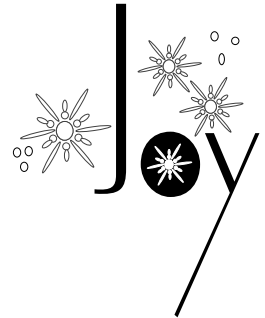
Guest: Damian of Milan

Don't miss our Christmas program!!! Damian will put us in the Christmas spirit with his very creative floral arrangements. Come early to enjoy the member-designed table centerpieces, have a glass of wine at the open bar, and visit with your friends.

Centerpieces: All done by PGC members...contact Doris Rock or Julie Foley if you want to bring along a Holiday season inspired floral centerpiece for one of the luncheon tables. Don't be shy, it's always fun to participate!

Reservations required! All members and their guests are invited. If you haven't gotten your tickets for you and your guests, please send a check made out to "Peoria Garden Club" for \$18 per person and mail, no later than Mon. Nov. 21st to: Sue Gauwitz, 1817 W. Baywood Ave. Peoria, Il. 61614

Any questions? Please contact Doris Rock: 692-2857 or Julie Foley: 691-4289.



INDOOR PLANTS FOR LOW-LIGHT CONDITIONS

During the short days of our northern winters, we look to the indoor garden to maintain our green thumbs. Often the light levels in our homes are too low to support the sturdy growth necessary for many indoor plants. Don't give up, there are some beautiful foliage plants that will do quite well under these conditions.

Aglaonema or "Chinese Evergreen," excels in relatively low-light. There are many varieties, all prized for their beautiful variegated leaves. These plants are slow growers, enjoy soil that is barely moist, and are not particularly fussy about fertilizer.

Equally attractive and easy to grow is Sansevieria. Often called "snake plant" because of its long stiff leaves, this plant will tolerate any level of light. They will not do well, however, if they are overwatered or chilled.

An old standby is the Aspidistra or cast-iron plant, aptly named since it can withstand more neglect than most other plants. However, if provided with some TLC, this plant can reach three feet. Unlike the Sansevieria, this plant can tolerate night temperatures in the 50s.

If you are looking for a fern, try the "Rochford holly fern," Cyrtomium falcatum. This relative of the Boston fern with its stiff leathery leaves will be far more rewarding in a reduced light situation. Another fern that outperforms the Boston fern is the Dallas fern.

Of the palms, only the Kentia palm and the Parlor palm do well in low light. Keep the growing medium constantly moist and fertilize often as these plants are big drinkers and feeders.

With careful selection, your indoor garden can be food for the soul when the wind is howling and the snow is falling. (from *U of I Extension, Campaign/Urbana*)

Nancy's Notations for **DECEMBER**

- Early December is a good time to apply mulch around your roses and any other newly planted perennials--keeping mulch away from the stem or the trunk.
- Rhododendrons and azaleas will survive the winter better if they have several inches of mulch or ground up leaves protecting their shallow roots.
- If chrysanthemums have been growing in the ground since last spring, they will have a good root structure and considered to "be established". Prune only the tops now if they are "raggedy". They better survive the winter if they are not heavily cutback. Pruning is done in the spring when green growth at the crown begins to show. Chrysanthemums purchased this fall are treated differently. Prune dead foliage back heavily and then cover the plant with a thick application of mulch. (This will help the roots continue to grow.) If you have good drainage, the plant may become permanently established.
- If shrubs are fully dormant, they can be fertilized with 10-10-10 now or in January or February.
- Place markers at the perimeter of your lawn if you have had snowplow damage in past years.
- Bundle evergreens that have several tops with binder twine. This keeps a heavy snowfall from separating the tops. Wrapping in bird netting will discourage deer from nibbling on the foliage. I wrap all my yews with bird netting and have found that practice to be very effective in preventing damage.
- ☐Plant pansy seed this month under lights.They will be nice plants by March when you can plant them outside.
- ☐Spray deer repellent on plants they love to nibble on. Deer are creatures of habit. It is important to discourage them from ever starting to enjoy nibbling on your shrubs and plants.
- Do not fertilize houseplants at this time. Plants you are forcing under lights may benefit from a soluble fertilizer applied at 1/2 the normal rate.
- Holiday plants are best watered by soaking them in the sink (removing the foil wrap temporarily.)

— Nancy Crawford, PGC member

This soup was served to our Nov. guest, Clair Cross. The soup was such a hit for those few who had it, that it was suggested to share the recipe to all PGC members...enjoy.

PINKY'S SPINACH SOUP

Saute in 6Tbs butter: 1 Chopped Onion and 1/2 Cup Rice
Add: 2 Chopped Carrots, 2 Chopped Potatoes
46oz Chicken Broth, and 2 Cups Creamora
Cook for 15 minutes
Add 1 Package of frozen spinach and 10oz Velveta
Cook 15 minutes more and serve.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

I can't remember such a beautiful fall with this long string of days with warm weather; it's been great! I know we all enjoyed Clair Cross's November presentation about "Artists and their Gardens." Thank you Doris Rock and Julie Foley for this enjoyable program.

Thank you Carolyn Schelkopf for arranging the Road Trip workshop to Petersburg; what a fun day. Many of us are looking forward to a return visit to "The Farm."

A reminder that the volunteer sheets are due Nov. 25. If you didn't pick one up at the Oct. or Nov. meetings you can e-mail or call me for the form. It's a great help to our committee and board chairmen.

In another part of the newsletter are again the criteria for a venue with an added item of Thursday availability. Please help us out by doing some "footwork" and checking out the facility before passing the information along to Lori Gangloff and Phyllis Baylor. We would like to secure a new home as soon as possible.

I'll see you at the December holiday luncheon and may you all have a blessed and safe holiday season.

— Lynn Heath, PGC President

PEORIA GARDEN CLUB NEEDS A NEW HOME

Here are some facts about the CURRENT Lakeview facility:

1. The building currently used by Lakeview is owned by Peoria Park District. At this time Lakeview rents the facility from the park district.
2. On July 1, 2012 the planetarium will be closed and the room's contents will be moved to the auditorium for storage until they move to the riverfront.
3. They hope to be in the new Riverfront Museum by Sept. 2012.
4. After the current facility moves to the riverfront, the Peoria Park District plans to move into the current Lakeview facility and use it for office space. At this time, they are undecided what they will do with the auditorium.

Here are some facts about the new RIVERFRONT museum.

1. The new Riverfront Museum will not offer room rentals until January 2013.
2. No food or beverage will be allowed to be "brought in" to the new facility.

Therefore Peoria Garden Club needs a new home for 2012-2013 year. Here are things that would need to be considered for PGC's new site:

1. A fairly central location that is easy to drive to.
2. Good Parking.
3. Meeting room large enough for 125 or more people.
4. Kitchen facilities.
5. Someone to set up tables and chairs for us
6. OK to bring in our own food.
7. Set up for audio/visual needs, microphone, screen for slides, etc.
8. Reasonable rental fee (We presently pay \$175.00 each time we use the auditorium and \$55.00 each time we use a classroom for a workshop.)
9. Handicap accessible.
10. Room for one large metal storage cabinet—3 feet wide.
11. Thursday Availability

Please contact Phyllis Baylor 673-1098; phbaylor@comcast.net or Lori Gangloff 444-4563; lorigangloff@hotmail.com with any suggestions you have for a new venue.

Thank you, Lynn Heath PGC President

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Please welcome the following new member(s) and also add the following changes to your membership directory. Thank you.

New Member

Mildred Deitrick

1705 N. Autumn Ln. Peoria, Il. 61604-4610
309-676-1776



Changes/Corrections

Myrna Kele

2602 W. Alabaster Ave., Dunlap, Il. 61525-7506

Lois Verkler

44588 Lariat Trl., Elizabeth, Co. 80107-9318

Just a reminder that guests are welcome to attend the monthly meetings; however, there is a \$5.00 fee to attend each meeting.

—*Rita Lynn, Membership Chair*

PETTINGILL-MORRON HISTORICAL HOME

Thanks again to Paul Rosenbohm of Better Earth (LHF Compost Inc.) for donating 40 bags of compost to the PM gardens. On Thursday, October 27, Lori Gangloff, Lynn Heath, Mary Christiansen, Rita Lynn, and Melanie Martin helped me to clean up the gardens and spread the compost. Many thanks for their hard work. If any other garden club members are interested in this project, please contact me. We work a few times in the spring, and then do a cleanup in the fall. — *Phyllis Baylor*

GARDEN WALK - 2012

The Peoria Garden Club will be sponsoring a Garden Walk on Thursday, June 14, 2012. The Walk committee has been having fun gathering beautiful gardens for the event.

We will have several raffle table tablescapes, again. If you have any decorative plant containers, yard, ornaments, china, linens or other related items in good condition, that you would like to donate, please, contact me, Susan Davis, 693 3817, and I will come and get them. We would like to have 3 or 4 tables with beautiful items. — *Susan Davis, Garden Walk Chair*

WAYS & MEANS

Due to the luncheon in December, I can't think of anything substantial to report. Just thanks to all the garden club members who purchased t-shirts, sweatshirts, and aprons. The sweatshirts and t-shirts will come in handy for civic projects and outings, and the aprons are always practical...

— *Letitia Algrain, Ways & Means Chair*



BULB PLANTING

Peoria Garden Club, represented by member and Civic Project Chairman, Susan Naschert, and her committees provided three separate programs and events benefitting students and the community. On September 26, 2011, a hands-on educational program on photosynthesis and the differences between seeds and bulbs was presented to 20 students with cognitive deficits including Downs Syndrome and autism. The students and volunteers from Peoria Garden Club subsequently planted bulbs in a courtyard viewed from the windows of the Special Needs Classroom. The bulbs will result in a colorful display next Spring.

Crittenton Center was the second site of bulb planting. 10 Bradley students, 10 boy scouts, 5 girl scouts, scout leaders, Dr. Fischer (director of Crittenton), and garden club members prepared the soil and put the bulbs in the ground. The scouts were given an educational program about the process of growing plants and the needs of growing things.

Mary Venden's Third Grade Class of 27 students at Blessed Sacrament in Morton learned about seeds and bulbs and planted bulbs under the guidance of garden club members.

These plantings and educational opportunities were a great way to feature adults and students working together to learn and to enhance our environment. The results will be a bright and colorful welcome to the spring season. — *Perennially, Pinky*

DECORATING MORRON HOUSE FOR THE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOURS

This is always a fun and fulfilling Garden Club project. We used more greens, ribbons, pinecones, beads, Christmas ornaments, etc. than you can imagine! We decorated a huge living room, a library, a dining room, the kitchen, a loooong banister, 3 bedrooms, a sitting room, the maid's room, and many hall areas. We had great camaraderie, picking out ribbons or Christmas objects to use, and climbing the stairs many times. And we had fun and remain friends after hours of looking through boxes, discarding this and picking out that! But the final scene is breathtakingly beautiful... and it took us "elves" just 4 -5 hours to accomplish amazing decorating work!

So many thanks to 22 outstanding workers, including Rita Lynn, Phyllis Baylor, Nora O'Brien, Julie Foley, Mary Rose, Betty Beer, Sue Gauwitz, Colleen Dixon, Mary Beth Morrissey, Mary Ann Knight, Gayle Mirande, Lu Baker, Dawn Osborn, Jean Schlesinger, Joan Barrett, Carol Morrissey, Denice Stranz, Carol Schelkopt, Lori Gangloff, Joyce Trager, Carol McFarland, and Margie Wagner.

And when you are Christmas decorating at home this year, please put aside for the Morron House anything that you no longer want or need. We would love to have your "oldies but goodies" to refurbish our supplies for decorating in 2012. That would include nice greens, and candles too. I will be glad to take all extra things and bring them to Morron House. — *Margie Wagner*

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PEORIA, IL. 61614

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December 2011

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PEORIA GARDEN CLUB 2011-2012

Calendar At-A-Glance

PEORIA GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dec. 1 | Thurs. | PGC Luncheon - Mt. Hawley Country Club - <i>see details on front page</i>
<i>(Reservations are needed by Mon. Nov. 21)</i> |
| Jan. 8 | Sun. | Green Thumb Deadline |
| Feb. 2 | Thurs. | PGC General Meeting - <i>"Perennial of the Year"</i> with Martha Smith, Uof I Extension |
| Feb. 12 | Sun. | Green Thumb Deadline - <i>(a week later than normal)</i> |
| Feb. 21 | Tues. | Workshop - <i>"Fairy Gardens"</i> with Ella Maxwell at Hoerr's Nursery |



<p><i>Snowbirds...Please contact Membership Chair Rita Lynn if you are planning on being away for the winter and want your Green Thumb mailed to you. Thank you.</i></p>
