



**PEORIA GARDEN CLUB
OFFICERS
FOR 2009-2010**

OFFICERS

Presidents Fran Kepler
 President Elect (open)
 1st Vice President: Judy Ziemba
 2nd Vice President Nancy DeLathouwer
 Treasurer JoAnn Blank
 Recording Secretary Mary Christiansen
 Corresponding Secretary Dorothy Wilson
 Past Presidents Susan Davis
 & Judy Ziemba

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Workshop Co-Chairs Bonnie Cox,
 Mimi Allen
 Social Chairs Jackie Colgan,
 Karen Scott & Jane Velazquez
 Publicity Lynn Moletti
 Civic Projects... Pat Thomason, Lynn Heath
 Newsletter/Editor Melanie Martin
 Bulk Mailing Phyllis Baylor
 Ways & Means Neita Volz

Corresponding Secretary:

Please notify **Dorothy Wilson** if you know of any club members who are ill or bereaved. She will send a card from the Peoria Garden Club.
 Phone: (815) 882-2695 or
 Email: djwilson@nabbnet.com

Contact 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 **Nancy DeLathouwer** to pay dues, or have an address or phone no. change:
 631 N. Adams St., Kewanee, IL 61443-1207
 Phone: (309) 852-4498
 Email: tndelathouwer@verizon.net

Peoria GC Website:

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

General Meeting & Program: Thurs. February 4th

Place: Lakeview Museum Auditorium

Time: 12:00pm Tea • 12:30pm Meeting • 1:00pm Speaker

Program: "House Plants & You"

Speaker: Susan Butler, Princeville, IL

Susan has been involved with plants for many years and in various venues. She owned and operated Green Plantscapes, Inc. until retirement. Her business specialized in corporate accounts offering fresh flowers and plant designs in addition to plant rental, leasing and maintenance. More recently Susan has been seen at ICC teaching about houseplants.

Hostesses: Lucy Schindler, Marilyn Bauer, Dorothy Wilson, Joan Robison, Donna Zimmerman, Marilyn Barker

Centerpiece: Claudia Buchanan

Ways & Means

The September Ways & Means' table was left untouched.

The October plant sale was obviously an exercise in "too many already".

The November sale of books and bottles was less than awesome.

But 'nere fear' we found the answer. "Sweets to the Sweets". Cookies were sold right out of the ovens. So we will have cookies.

And an added feature...an auction. This month a cake. Starting small to see "if it will play in Peoria". Ideas for future "auctions" accepted. — Neita Volz

March Bus Trip:

Destination: "Funks Grove Maple Syrup Tour", lunch and more!

Time/Date: **Tues. March. 16**, meet the bus at 9:00am, Lakeview Museum parking lot, returning around 4pm.

Location: Shirley and Bloomington, IL

Instead of a workshop, we will meet at Lakeview parking lot and go to Funks Grove to see maple syrup being made. This family owned-business has been making syrup since 1860, south of Bloomington in Shirley, IL. The current owners are Debbie and Mike Funk. Their gift shop sells the syrup as well as maple truffles covered in dark chocolate, cream and cookbooks. We will also visit the historic Funk Prairie Home, the family home built in 1863, still containing all the original family furniture. (more details of Funks Grove: www.funkspuremaplesyrup.com) Lunch will be at Biaggi's in Bloomington, followed by a visit to Whole Foods and The Garlic Press & Deli.

Open to all. You are welcome to invite non-PGC member guests. Cost is \$30, which includes bustrip and lunch. Make checks payable to Peoria Garden Club. Sign up at the March meeting or by mailing check to Bonnie Cox at 5030 N. Prospect Rd, Peoria Heights, 61616. Questions? Contact Bonnie at 682-6680 or ilmidwife@aol.com — *Bonnie Cox, Workshop Co-Chair*

Nancy's Notions for **MARCH**

- Prune bramble fruit and grapes; also fruit trees with the exception of peaches and nectarines. Fertilize fruit trees. It is still a good time to do renewal pruning on your shrubs. You may lose a few blossoms if the shrubs are spring blooming, but seeing the branch structure when the shrub is without leaves, makes a pruning job easier.
- Apply 10-10-10 to your garden. This is all the fertilizer that perennials need for the year. This is also a good time to apply compost to your garden.
- If your yews are overgrown, this is the time to prune them. They can be cut back severely, and they will regrow. I always make sure yews are fertilized and watered after severe pruning. Hemlocks and yews are the only two evergreens that can be sheared heavily and will regrow.
- Prune all ornamental grasses down to 2-4 inches above the soil line. Cut lirope within two inches of the ground. I like to trim pachysandra back severely every other year. (You can actually do this with a lawn mower). This keeps the groundcover neat and thick, so weeds can't grow and leaves and debris can easily be raked or blown off.
- You can start parsley, broccoli, cabbage, chives, dill and fennel indoors under lights now. March 15 sow early tomatoes, swiss chard, endive and leaf lettuce--inside under lights. Many annual flowers can be started inside in March.
- We have had so much moisture in the soil this winter, that you might not be able to work in your garden in March unless we have alot of sun and dry weather. Working wet soils will ruin its structure.
- If you have scale on your euonymous, apply a dormant oil when the temperature doesn't drop below freezing in 24 hours.

— Nancy Crawford

Gardening Tidbits:

- Waiting out the frost - As the days really start to lengthen in spring (this year falls on March 19th), it is difficult to resist those early gardening urges. But be warned that jumping the gun outdoors can result in frostbitten tenders and stunted, disease-prone plants and vegetables. The farmer's almanac is a reliable source for discovering your last frost date...May 15th or Mother's Days isn't always it around here...try hard to be patient.
- Aggrandizing Agapanthus - Agapanthus are huge, granny-fied remnants of a bygone gardening era. Also called lilies of the Nile, these tender tuberous plants were one symbols for garden owners with greenhouses and plenty of cash to spare. Today, agapanthus are inexpensive and so readily available (in some parts of the country) that they are used as road plantings in California, also due to the fact that they can tolerate all the smog generated by automobiles.

Editor's Comment: This is the newsletter for all the members of Peoria Garden Club. If you are involved in a club event and will need to put some sort of announcement or details about the event in the newsletter, and you were not on my Aug. reminder email list, please don't hesitate to send me an email to let me know your e-address and I will include you on this reminder list. Just announcing things at the meetings doesn't always get to everyone...especially those who aren't there, come too late or leave too early! Plus a written reminder is always nice. — Thank you. Melanie Martin, Green Thumb Editor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT :

What a wonderful change of pace meeting we had on Feb. 4th with Peggy Carter and gardening words from Emily Dickenson--a charming presentation.

I do hope you will be able to join us on March 4th when Susan Butler will inform us about house plants--since it has been rather difficult lately to even try to enjoy the out doors--we'll focus on the inside gardens for just awhile longer.

Never fear, however, I recieved my first seed catalogue just last week so Spring must be on the way. Spring means all kinds of Garden Club activity so be prepared to get involved when a project manager calls on you for help.

Please find the report of the Nominating Committee below. You will note once again that the 2010-11 program year is without a President Elect. If you have interest in this position please let any Board member know ASAP. The current Board has desided to limp along at this point without the help and talent of this position but since in recent years this position has gone vacant 4 times more than being filled--it may be time for a good look at how our club truely operates and some by-laws may need to be changed and club operation streamlined.

Please remember to 'Embrace the present--It's life!'

— *Friendly regards, Fran Kepler, PGC President*

NOMINATING COMMITTEES' REPORT:

Here is the slate of officers for 2010-2011

President	Fran Kepler
President Elect	(open)
1st Vice Presidents (Programs)	Lori Gangloff & Lynn Heath
2nd Vice Presidents (Membership)	Susie Gauwitz & Rita Lynn
Treasurer	JoAnn Blank
Recording Secretary	Gayle Mirande
Corresponding Secretary	Dorothy Wilson
Past Presidents	Susan Davis & Judy Ziemba
Workshops	Nancy DeLathouwer
Social	Jackie Colgan, Karen Scott & Jane Velasquez
Publicity	Lynn Moletti
Civic Projects	Pat Thomason, Susan Naschert & Kathy Kohlhase
Newsletter	Melanie Martin
Newsletter mailing	Phyllis Baylor
Ways & Means	Neita Volz

— *Margie Wagner,
Nominating Committee Chair*



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP NEWS: DUES ARE DUE

Dues are due at the March and April meetings. Those who pay their dues before or at the April meeting will have the opportunity to win a free year of garden club. The drawing will be held at the May meeting and a \$25.00 check will be given to the winner. Please make your \$25.00 dues check payable to the Peoria Garden Club. If you need to mail to: Nancy DeLathouwer, 631 N. Adams St. Kewanee IL 61443

In a previous newsletter, this address appeared incorrect, this is the corrected version: Tracy Heuerman, 148 W. Detweiller Dr., Peoria 61615

*** *Members who plan to temporarily stop their mail should notify Nancy D. so that we don't have to pay penalties for returned newsletters. This cost adds up and could be put to better use in our organization and city.* *** — Nancy DeLathouwer, 2nd Vice President

PEORIA GARDEN WALK REPORT:

The Peoria Garden Club Garden Walk "GARDEN GLORIES" is **Thurs. June 10th** from 10am - 7pm. The gardens have finally been finalized and we have a luncheon site reserved. Starting at the March PGC meeting, you might be approached by the Hostess Co-Chairs (Pat Thomason and Lynn Heath) to sign up as a hostess. If they don't "see" you...please, won't you go "see" them to help with this huge project? Lori Gangloff, our Ticket Chair will start selling tickets for the Walk at the April meeting, and Phyllis Baylor will be selling the luncheon tickets as well. If you are interested in working on the planning committee, we can sure find a spot for you and will welcome your contributions. Thank you.

— *Melanie Martin, Garden Walk Chair (contact info pg. 1)*

2010 CIVIC PROJECTS OPPORTUNITY:

PGC Civic Projects are again offering grants to non-profit organizations to improve landscapes. The 2010 applications are due by the April 1 PGC meeting. Application forms may be obtained by contacting Lynn Heath at 697-2195 or Pat Thomason @ 697-2327. We will also have applications available at the March 4th meeting. —*Thank you, Lynn Heath & Pat Thomason, Civic Projects Cochairs*

GREEN ACRES PLANT SALE

To be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 8:00 A.M. till Noon . It's not too soon to be thinking about how you can help with this project. Volunteers are needed: to help dig and pot plants several weeks before the sale; price, sort and pot on Friday, April 30; and cashiers and helpers the day of the sale. We still need your empty pots; you can bring them to the next meeting. And don't forget your plant donations! If you would like to help or have any questions please call Co-Chairs: Rita Lynn (309-925-5466), Sue O'Neill (309-274-2291), Sherry Van Buren (309-697-4393)

GARDEN CLUBS OF ILLINOIS DISTRICT III - ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

March 20, 2010 • Jacksonville Country Club, Jacksonville, IL

Schedule for the Day:

9:30-12:00 Registration

10:00-12:00 Executive Committee Meeting
(this meeting is open to everyone)

Entertainment

Noon Luncheon

District Meeting to follow luncheon

1:00 Program "Backyard Sanctuaries" by Pat Ward of
Happy Hollow Nursery

2:00 Rededication of the Blue Star Marker

Door Prizes and Raffle Drawing (50/50)

Cost of the day (luncheon, program door prizes) \$20.00

Reservation form and check must be submitted by Fri. March 5, 2010

Send check, your name, and the name of the garden club you are a member of to: Linda Settles, 9 Manassas, Jacksonville, IL 62650
Questions? Call Linda at: 217-245-1244.

Driving Directions - once you get to Springfield:

You will be on I-72 West and take the 1st Jacksonville exit When you reach the end of the exit, turn RIGHT onto Morton Ave. toward Jacksonville. You will go past the Prison and Pactiv Corporation, which are both on the right side of the road. Watch for Spradlin Home Sales--also on the right. The Country Club Road is right across from Spradlin's so you will turn LEFT onto Country Club Road. The road curves around several times but you will see the Country Club on the LEFT--turn and go up the hill and park. The front entrance faces the west and has a canopy.

GARDEN STUDY GROUP

A study group entitled: "Digging Deeper into Today's Hottest Garden Plants" will be offered through OLLI/Bradley, facilitated by Carol Morrisey and Pinky Riffle. This will consist of 6 sessions and run from April 21 to May 27. For information call Carol @263-0845 or Pinky @444-2940 after Marxh 1st. — *Perennially, Pinky*

More Gardening Tidbits:

- Bounteous Begonias - The genus Begonia has more than 1,000 species and an additional 10,000 cultivars and hybrids. Loosely, there are three main types of begonias and these are classified by their roots: fibrous-rooted, rhizomatous, and tuberous.

- Birds in the Garden - A healthy bird population in your garden is nature's way of indicating that your garden ecosystem is balanced. The Audubon Society recommends that thick shrubbery be planted for bird cover, that feeders and baths be kept full.

- Why an all White Garden? - You may wonder why anyone would go to the seemingly meaningless exercise of planting a white garden when part of the joy of gardening is playing with a huge palette of colors. An all white garden, especially when full of diverse shapes and interesting design, can create a very peaceful garden experience.

AS A COURTESY TO OTHERS: Please, if you are leaving before the meeting is over (approx. 2:30pm), that it would be polite for you to sit in the back of the room so that your exiting won't disturb the program in progress. Thank you for your cooperation.

1125 WEST LAKE

PEORIA, IL. 61614

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March 2009

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PEORIA GARDEN CLUB 2010

Calendar At-A-Glance

PEORIA GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 4 | PGC General Meeting & Program - "House Plants & You" |
| March 7 | Green Thumb Deadline - Get your articles to Melanie Martin for next month's Green Thumb. |
| March 16 | Workshop - "See Maple Sugar Being Made" - Bustrip (<i>See details on page 1</i>) |
| April 1 | PGC General Meeting & Program - "Ponds in the Prairie Land" |
| April 4 | Green Thumb Deadline - Get your articles to Melanie Martin for next month's Green Thumb. |
| April 20 | Workshop: "Pussy Willow and Forsythia Wreath" |
| April 30 | Arbor Day - <i>A good day to plant a tree!</i> |
| May 1 | Green Acres Plant Sale - Metro Center (<i>See some details on page 3</i>) |
| May 6 | PGC General Meeting & Program - "Traditional & Creative Floral Design" |
| May 9 | Green Thumb Deadline - Get your articles to Melanie Martin for the last Green Thumb of this year. |
| May 18 | Workshop: (<i>Bus trip to 2 Garden Club members gardens - TBD</i>) |
| June 10 | Garden Walk - 10am - 7pm |

MAILING OPTIONS:

Snowbirds: PGC members wanting the Green Thumb mailed to them at their winter addresses should contact Phyllis Baylor and supply stamps, self-addressed envelopes (legal-size) for the months desired.

Temporary Mail Stop: Members who plan to temporarily stop their mail should notify Nancy D. so that we don't have to pay penalties for returned newsletters. This cost adds up and could be put to better use in our organization and city.