

Dunesland Latest Dirt



PRESIDENTS' POINTS

Today as I write this, I am thinking about traditions and transitions. October is very much a transition month. We're leaving the sunny, busy days of summer behind and moving into the slower, crisper days of autumn. Maybe there is a bit of sadness at losing the summer light, but there is also the anticipation of the glow of cozy fires and time to contemplate.

Maybe we can take a bit of time to reflect on where we're going with our garden club. Traditionally we would be meeting, have a program, and maybe even a workshop. Since we can't do that at the moment, let's consider some transitions.

First, I would like to present to you our officers for the next two years. Some are new and some are returning, but we must appreciate them for volunteering their time, effort and creativity as we continue to maintain a strong club even in these unusual times.

Elizabeth Dermody	Co-President; Workshops
Sandra Shea	Co-President; Webpage; Membership
April Meyers	1 st VP
Jan LaBelle	2 nd VP
Judy Leonard	Co-Secretary
Doreen Matteson	Co-Secretary; Scholarship
Dolores Mink	Treasurer
Judy Anderson	Undertreasurer
Gale Dulian	Activities; Community Affairs
Kathy Knutell	Auction
Karen Monsen	Calling
Anne Miller	Chaplain
April Meyers	Facebook
Barbara Norman	Garden Tour
Nikki Rhomberg	Newsletter/Social Media
Marty Butler	Parliamentary Advisor
Brenda Perez	Raffle
Helen Koetz	Sunshine; Glove Sales
Barb Alexander	Web Staff Photographer
Jill LaBelle	Yearbook; Photographer

What a great staff we have! This club is fortunate to have members willing to give their time and energy for us all. (Continued on page 2)



- Brenda Perez—8 Michael Kim— 22**
- Judy Wilkes—14 Judith Stalder—23**
- Naomi Friedrich—15 Shirley Mintern—27**
- Nikki Rhomberg—19 Helen Koetz—31**

ISSUE 2

October 2020

RE-BLOOMING

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3. 1-13



In Ecclesiastes there is the call to plant, to love, to live, to work and then to enjoy the fruits of our labors. It acknowledges a predictable rhythm to our existence, even as we experience the ups and downs of daily living. COVID-19 has upended so much, yet we continue to work, to care for family and friends, plant bulbs, harvest crops, savor warm sun and fading blooms and put our gardens to bed for the winter. In that we find comfort. In that we move forward.

I'm grateful to Sandi and Beth for accepting the challenge of moving our club forward, knowing it will require creative new ways of thinking. I admire their "can do" spirit. They both bring enormous talent to the job. We are in good hands.

Because we weren't able to hold our June Tea and Installation of Officers, I was unable, as outgoing President, to thank the Officers and Committee Chairs who so ably served with me for the past two years. So let this be a virtual and heartfelt "thank you!" It was a wonderful experience to be part of that smooth-running team. Many have agreed to continue for another term. Again, we are in good hands.

Every contribution by every member brings beauty and purpose to the whole. We look forward with confidence. To everything there is a season.

Jan LaBelle

PRESIDENTS' POINTS



Now, those reflections I mentioned:

We'd like to include more of you in our effort to stay vital and thriving. Please think about your interests and your talents and how they can be of help to us. Yes, you do have talents! Maybe you're good at chatting on the telephone. Maybe you have an interest you could share as a presentation or workshop. Maybe you have ideas you'd like to present, even privately, to further our club. Maybe you'd like to submit something to this newsletter. Maybe you'd even like to help as an officer. So, please consider how you can help, then whisper in someone's ear or shout out—we need you so our club can continue to be as vibrant as it has been.

To show you that our traditions do carry on, we have two new members who have joined even though we cannot meet in person. They are Julia Bishop and Nikki Rhomberg.

We are also fortunate that Nikki Rhomberg, who does graphic design, has agreed to publish our newsletter for us. You probably noticed how beautiful and professional our first newsletter was—that was thanks to her!

Mindful of the great traditions of our club, we must carry on. We, your officers and staff, need your feedback on what you need from the club.

Please contact us at info@duneslandgardenclub.com with any suggestion or question at all.



Sandi Shea

You can also find news on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/illinoisduneslandgardenclub



Along with making and canning plum, peach, and grape jam and canning salsa and green beans this summer and fall, for the last few months my husband and I have been walking for our daily exercise. (When you have heart problems, the doctors tell you to walk.) I took pictures a few weeks ago, as we walked the trails on several days at Van

Patten Woods. Please visit the club website and join us as we share our picture "walk".

We've been busy preparing online clinics (how-to's for dividing and replanting daylilies, iris, and hostas) and workshops (how to make a "Leopold Garden Bench" and how to make "Decorative Stepping Stones"). Kits with printed instructions can be purchased through the

garden club for either of the workshops. Contact Beth if you are interested in a kit. Printed instructions for either workshop can be purchased through the garden club for \$1 each. You can also contact Beth for copies of the instructions.

If anyone has any suggestions for tips that can be used for our monthly newsletter, email your ideas to Beth. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, email Sandi or Beth.

We've got some great things planned for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, so keep reading and check out the website and Facebook frequently.

Happy Fall Gardening!

Beth Dermody



We are all in this together. If anyone needs a bit of computer advice or assistance, let us know. If you don't know how to access Facebook or our website, we can answer your questions.

Let's all do this. Let's stay in touch with one another.

Let's find creative ways to use technology to get us through the restrictions we're all being forced to endure.

SUNSHINE



As Sunshine Chairman I send cards to members who need a little brightening in their lives. Normally I share this news each month at our meeting so that others may reach out and offer support as well.

These are the contacts I have made in recent months: Our sympathies were extended to Judy Stalder on the loss of her husband, Arnold, and to Suzanne Raiden on the loss of her mother. Get well wishes were sent to April Meyers, Ethel Blanton and Doreen Matteson.

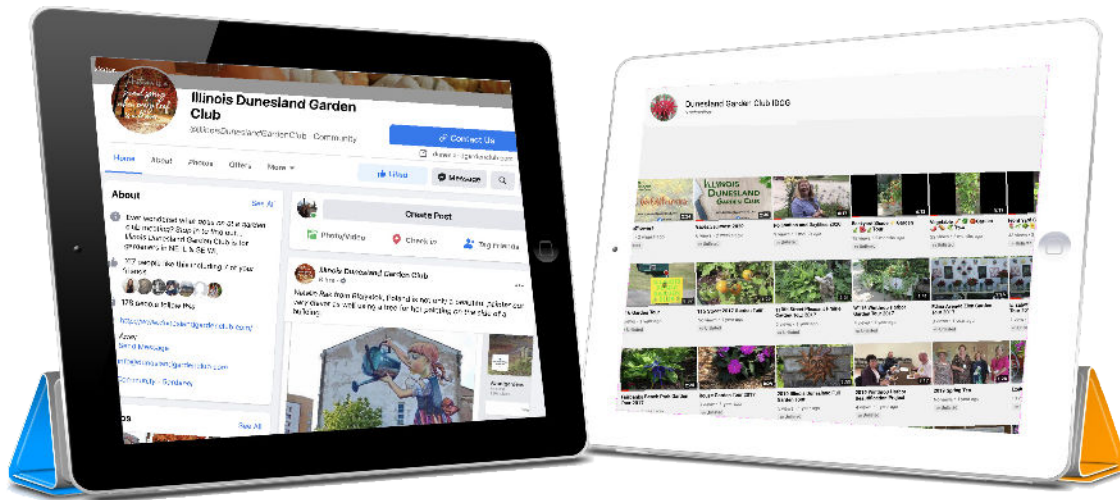
If you know of someone to whom we should send a card please contact me at HKoetz@comcast.net or (262) 237-1950.

Helen Koetz

As an ongoing fundraiser, I also have our garden gloves for sale for \$4 a pair. They are very durable and make excellent gifts.



Please let me know if you would like some.



Since we are unable to present programs at the moment, we have several virtual offerings you can access through Facebook, YouTube or our club website. Please take the time to visit the ones that interest you and let us know what you like or would like to see in the future. New ones are uploaded weekly. Here is a list of some of these programs and where to find them.

Find the club's website at: www.duneslandgardenclub.com

Check out our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/illinoisduneslandgardenclub

Club video page: www.duneslandgardenclub.com/events/videos

Club program (Clinics and Workshops) page: www.duneslandgardenclub.com/events/programs

Clinics	Videos	Workshops
<p>COMING SOON:</p> <p>How-to divide and replant daylilies</p> <p>How-to divide and replant irises</p> <p>How-to divide and replant hostas</p>	<p>Fall Wildflowers</p> <p>Hybridizing Day Lillies</p> <p>Garden Harvest 2020</p> <p>Backyard Shade Garden Tour</p> <p>Vegetable Garden Tour</p> <p>Front Yard Garden Tour</p> <p>April's Gardens— Coming Soon</p> <p>Barb's Treasures—Coming Soon</p>	<p>COMING SOON:</p> <p>Leopold Garden Bench</p> <p>Decorative Stepping Stones</p>

MIDWEST MONTHLY GARDENING

October is the time to enjoy the beauty of Fall in all its colorful glory. There are sunny, cool days that make working in the garden a joy. The first frost date is approximately October 19-31st. We need to prepare the garden for the upcoming cold, freezing weather.

- 1) **Perennials**—If the weather is dry, continue to water plants, but do not fertilize or mulch plants at this time. Mulch after ground freezes.
- 2) **Annuals**—Pot up or bring indoors any annuals you can overwinter for next season. Drench plants being overwintered indoors with a soap solution to eliminate bugs. Pull annuals left in beds after the hard frost kills the plants, but remember as you are pulling plants to shake them upside down so all seeds stay in bed and may reseed in the spring. If there are empty beds with no bulbs/seeds, apply manure or compost and rototill the soil.
- 3) **Seed Saving**—Continue to collect seeds for next season. Remember to fully dry the seeds before storing and most importantly name and date the seeds.
- 4) **Bulbs**—Continue to dig and store tender bulbs before freezing temperatures. Begin to plant hardy spring bulbs and continue until the ground freezes.
- 5) **Lawn Care**—Continue to water the lawn if needed. Mow to two inches in height until growth slows down. Keep lawns free of leaves and debris.
- 6) **Vegetable Garden**—After hard frost remove all dead plant debris from beds. Add manure or mulch to empty beds. Apply a mulch or compost over all winter vegetables so they can be harvested well into the winter.
- 7) **Trees and Shrubs**—Continue to transplant deciduous trees and shrubs once leaves have fallen. Protect trunks of trees and shrubs with a tree wrap or screening to prevent deer or rodent damage. Remove diseased debris around base of trees and shrubs.
- 8) **Fruit Trees**—Wrap trunks of newly planted fruit trees to prevent sunscald. Clean up fallen fruit and debris around fruit trees and berries to prevent disease next year.
- 9) **Maintenance**—Store clay or ceramic pots to prevent freezing and cracking in winter. Store all lawn ornaments and furniture, repair or clean if needed. Check lawnmower and repair before storing for winter. Check snowblower for repairs in case snow comes early.
- 10) **Indoor Plants**—Check for space for all your plants brought indoors. Extra humidity may be needed for indoor plants in a dry, heated house.



April is a horticulturist retired from the Chicago Botanic Garden. She shares monthly gardening tips and would love to help you out with plant and gardening questions. Just [send her an email](#) and she will get back to you.

April Meyers

BREAKING DOWN LEAF MULCH

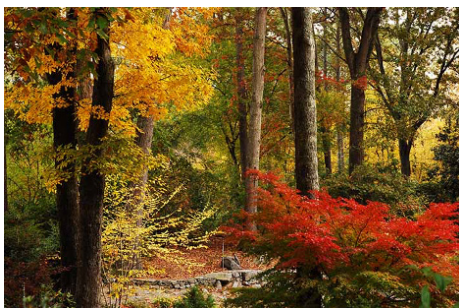
Leaves really are a gift to gardeners. 50-80% of the nutrients trees have extracted from the earth are held in the leaves which, ultimately, fall to the ground. Why let all those nutrients be hauled away to the landfill as waste? Instead put them right back to work into your landscape.

Gather all the leaves you've collected onto an area where you can mow over them with your mulching mower. Mow over the layer once or twice to shred it well, because smaller pieces bind together better in the beds for a more uniform mulch layer and the small pieces will break down and improve the soil more quickly. If you don't have a space where you can shred leaves with a mower, don't worry. You can achieve the same results by filling a large garbage bin about two thirds full with leaves, and then, lowering a power string trimmer into the bin. When you turn the trimmer on, it will work like a blender to chop the leaves into small pieces.

Once the leaves have been shredded you can rake or blow them directly into your beds. *(It's fine to leave a thin layer of leaves on the lawn, but avoid leaving any amount that covers much of your grass.)* Apply a layer of leaf mulch about 2" deep to cover the soil surface.

You could opt to apply another layer of mulch on top of the leaves to ensure the leaves are weighed down sufficiently to reduce the chance of being blown away. If you prefer the look of a more consistent mulch material, like pine straw or wood chips, this is the ideal combination to get the nutrient benefit of leaves along with the aesthetic you're after. Either way, the extra mulch (assuming it's not too thick – no more than 4" total) will provide another layer of organic matter that will eventually break down. Then add whatever you don't use to your compost bins.

Leaves are a fantastic source of carbon – a key element to making compost. By shredding them up into small pieces, the decomposition process takes place much more quickly, which helps to raise the temperature in the compost. Within a few weeks those shredded leaves are unrecognizable. They have melded with all of the other materials in the compost and have transformed into a dark, rich, earthy, soil-like consistency



Gardening is truly about working in concert with nature, and putting leaves to work as mulch and in compost is a prime example. It's continuing the cycle of life in the garden. You will be

replenishing the soil – making it better and better every year. Your plants are healthier, your private ecosystem is happier, and you will be a contented gardener.

Information above courtesy of Joe Lamp'l, host and creator of Emmy Award-winning Growing a Greener World®, a national green-living lifestyle series on PBS

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH USED POTTING MIX?

By: Jennifer Howell (Garden Gate Magazine April 2018)

Gorgeous containers start with the right potting mix. Should you throw away used potting mix at the end of the year or can you reuse it?

Reusing last year's potting mix for this year's container garden is certainly an economical idea. However, at the end of the growing season, a potting mix's fertility is at a minimum, and there might not be enough nutrients for your flowers to be happy and healthy. Adding new mix to the old means this season's plants will get what they need. Here are some tips to help you be resourceful with used potting mix and still grow a great container garden.



Save potting mix the right way

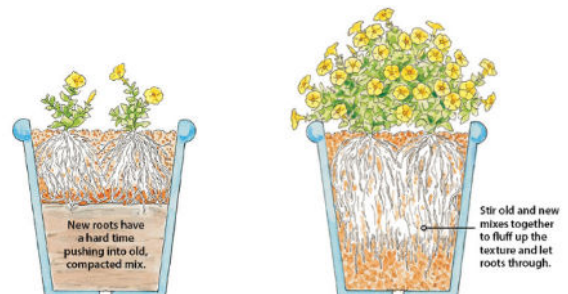
In fall, pull up any dead plants and shake out the roots. If you see live adults, cocoons or egg masses trying to overwinter in the mix, pick them out. If the plants in the container had a disease, that mix should be bagged up and sent out with the trash. (Don't re-use potting mixes used to grow tomatoes because there is a risk of spreading blight to a new crop.) Keep the rest of the soil tucked away in a garage, basement or shed for the winter.

Reuse potting mix in spring

In the spring, break apart the clump of potting mix in the tub or spread it out on a tarp. Add fresh potting mix so the ratio is 50% old to 50% new and stir together along with a slow-release fertilizer. Or add 25% compost to 75% old potting mix with a couple handfuls of organic additive like fish meal or worm castings. Be sure to mix it all thoroughly so the textures are evened out. Then pot up your containers as usual!

Don't just top off

You might be tempted to pour new mix ovetop the old and call it good. Yes, plant roots will grow easily in new potting mix, but they will struggle to spread out into hard, dry, compacted old mix beneath. Be sure to break up the old material and blend thoroughly with the new. Look to the illustration below. See what a difference it makes?





Beth's Corner

Purchase some fancy gourds. Pick different colors, sizes and shapes. Arrange in a pretty basket of appropriate size for all that you have. Tie a pretty fall ribbon on the handle to complete the look. Gourds usually sell for \$1 apiece or less. You can find them at Walmart, most grocery stores and farmers markets.

You can dress up some of the gourds. If they look like tiny pumpkins, draw faces on some with a magic (Sharpie) marker. Others look like birds if you attach beads to the "head" near the stem end to make eyes. October means Halloween, so go a little wild, have some fun with this, and create some creatures of your own.

Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

Wash seeds thoroughly, drain them and spread them on a cookie sheet. Put them in a 375° F oven and roast for 20-30 minutes to dry. Increase the oven temp to 400° F and dot seeds with butter. Brown seeds for 5-10 minutes, stirring to brown evenly. Watch carefully. They burn easily. Enjoy!



Made From Scratch Pumpkin Pie

Choose "sugar" or "pie" pumpkin. Cut the pumpkin in half from stem to bottom. Cut off stem. Place on parchment lined baking sheet cut side down. Bake at 375°F degrees for 45 minutes until fork tender. Let cool until able to handle—15 minutes. Scrape pumpkin from rind. Pumpkin can be frozen for later use if you have too much.



- 1 cup light cream or evaporated milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups cooked pumpkin--pack cup tightly
- 2/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ginger
- 3/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp cloves or in place of the 4 spices use 1 1/2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell

Preheat oven to 350° F degrees. Put all ingredients except pie shell in blender container in order listed. Cover and blend on mix until well mixed. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake 50-60 minutes or until knife comes out clean when inserted in filling. Cool. Serve with whipped cream if desired.

This pie will be grainier than a pie made with canned pumpkin, but still very good.

Optional—Should make a creamier pie—You can blend cooked pumpkin in a food processor until smooth. Then drain for 1-2 hours in a cheesecloth lined strainer. Use 2 cups of pulp, not liquid.