

Garden Pants



April 2016, Volume 77, Number 4

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President: Charlene Ackerman and Gerry Palmer

Spring is Here - Gardeners of the North Shore is Back April 5 Program - Sharon Yiesla - Hydrangeas are Hot

Hydrangeas are Hot - Presented by horticulturist Sharon Yiesla, owner of Sharon Yiesla, Horticultural Services through which she delivers gardening presentations.

She has been a horticulturist since 1983. She earned a BS in horticulture from Purdue University and an MS in horticulture from University of Illinois. Her past accomplishments include teaching at Illinois State University, working as a Horticulture Specialist for University Extension in Missouri, working as a Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension in Lake County and teaching classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

In the last few years hydrangeas have become a prominent plant in the landscape, with many cultivars being

introduced. Learn about the different species available, their care and available cultivars

Come to our first meeting in 2016 at the Chicago Botanic Gardens Tuesday April 5, 7:30 p.m. in the Pullman Room

Presidents' Message

Charlene Ackerman

Welcome back to Garden Pants, and the beginning of our new gardening year!

Gerry Palmer and I are planning for the upcoming season with speakers, activities, and some new additions to our agenda. Our Garden Walk this year will take place on Sunday, May 1 to display gardens with flowering bulbs. If you wish

to be part of this activity by opening your home to club members and the community at large, contact Gerry or me and let us know.

A little bit about your co-presidents: Gerry is a retired educator, having taught both at the high school and college levels. He keeps himself active in both community services as well as running a self-invented business for teachers, Psych. Kits. Ask him about it when you have a chance. He teaches nature classes in Lake Forest at Open Lands to elementary and Jr. High students. He is also the program chairperson at Dickinson Hall Senior Center, and he secures guest speakers for monthly meetings. During the spring and summer seasons, he busies himself with growing veggies from seeds, and uses them to prepare soups and sauces for his special dietary needs. "Way to go, Gerry"

I am also a retired educator, having taught at the preschool level, and spent 30 plus years as a director of day care centers in Illinois and California. My most recent position was at the Paul K. Kennedy Child Care Center at the VA Medical Center for 23+ years. I frequently return to read to the children, and to play with the babies in the Infant

Class! My hobbies include indoor and outdoor plantings. I have been in our Annual Garden Walk twice, and enjoy sharing my beautiful grounds with anyone who wishes to stop by. My perennials include numerous grasses, ground covers, and stately trees on a one acre property. Merilee Novinson, our past president was my garden designer during her working years, and she and husband John stop by each year to see the fruits of her labor, and to give me helpful transplanting tips, as well as to admire the emerging wisteria vine they shared and transplanted for me from their own grounds.

As spring emerges ,following an erratic winter season, we are all ready to grasp any opportunity to enjoy sunshine and a sense of optimism and joy .

Let's make this a year of sharing ideas, photos of your plants for upcoming Garden Pants issues, and working together to build membership and see our club flourish!

If you wish to contact either Gerry or myself, we welcome an email from you. My e-mail - charleneackerman@comcast.net; Gerry's - palmtree60045@yahoo.com

FUTURE PROGRAMS - Karen Finerman

May - Dori Flerlage - Vegetables

June - Leigh Stewart - Restoration of the Brushwood building at Ryerson Woods with native gardens

July - Kris Jarantoski

August - Pot Luck Dinner

August 13 - 14 Garden show at the C.B.G.

September - Terry Cichocki - Trees

October - Carol Cichorski - Winter interest

November - attracting birds to your garden (not confirmed)

December 5 - annual dinner - Back Yard Grill - Highland Park - Entertainment by Martin Lopez - "Fiddle Faddle" - Charlene Ackerman

Possible Field trips

Red's Garden Center in Northbrook - with seminar - date TBA

Pesche's Garden Center - Des Plaines - May 21-22 details forthcoming

Ball Seed - West Chicago

Spring Garden Walk - May 1st

We will have a Spring garden walk on May 1st

Carol Sternal - Mundelein; Alan Schulman - Riverwoods; and Merilee Novinson of Northbrook have agreed to show their gardens

We would like two more. Contact Charlene Ackerman or Gerry Palmer if you want to participate.

We also need a member to organize and publicize the garden walk.

Gardening Expert, Melinda Myers at Pasquesi's Lake Bluff Location

Melinda Myers, nationally known gardening expert and author will be hosting a FREE seminar titled "**Organic Lawn & Garden Care**" at our Lake Bluff location. Details, date and time is listed below:

Learn how to grow a beautiful landscape and productive garden while being kind to the environment. Melinda will discuss eco-friendly products and safe ways to manage insects and diseases that attack lawns, landscape plants and edibles. You'll learn how to grow a healthy lawn that is safe for pets and kids to play upon, a beautiful landscape filled with birds, butterflies and blooms, and a productive garden of delicious fruits and vegetables.

WHEN: Saturday, April 16

WHERE: Pasquesi's Lake Bluff Store

TIME: 11am - 12pm *Followed by Q & A from 12pm to 1pm



See our web site at

www.gardenersofthenorthshore.wordpress.com

We have a presence on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, find our page and post photos and comments on it. If you are not on Facebook and want to be, go to www.facebook.com and find a help section to find out how to get on, and how to post photos. Or find a book like "Facebook for Dummies"

Melinda's Gardening How-To: Managing Pests on Indoor Plants - Pasquesi Lake Bluff

written by Gardening Expert, Melinda Myers

You've packed away the holiday decorations, rearranged the furniture and finally have time to focus on your indoor plants. You may notice some yellowing, spotting or speckling on the leaves or a few insects that have taken up residence on your favorite indoor plant. Don't despair. Instead, invest a bit of time and effort managing these problems and keeping your plants looking their best.

Common Symptoms, Possible Causes and Solutions

*** Yellow leaves**

CAUSE: Too much or not enough water is the most common reason.

SOLUTION: Water thoroughly and as recommended on the plant tag. Watering frequency will vary with the type of plant, potting mix used, indoor temperature, humidity and light.

*Move plants to a container with drainage holes if needed.

*Pour off excess water that collects in the saucer or make your job easier and improve plant growth with a humidity tray.

*** Edges of Leaves turn brown**

CAUSE: Not enough water, root rot from overwatering, over fertilization, fluoride in water, salts in softened water.

SOLUTION: Adjust watering as needed (see above). Only fertilize actively growing plants with a dilute solution of houseplant fertilizer. This is usually March through November unless you're growing plants under artificial lights or in very high light conditions. Use rain water or water collected from dehumidifier that has not been cleaned with toxic chemicals to avoid fluoride and salt damage.

*** Spots on leaves**

CAUSE: Fungal or Bacterial disease.

SOLUTION: Remove infected leaves and stems. Adjust watering. This is often enough to restore plant's health allowing it to overcome the disease. Avoid water on the foliage and drafts of hot and cold air while providing enough space for adequate airflow around each plant.

Common Insect Pests, their symptoms and control

*** Fungus gnats**

IDENTIFY: These annoying insects are often mistaken for tiny fruit flies as they flit around the house. They feed on organic matter in the soil and are more annoying to us than harmful to the plants.

CONTROL:

*Allow the potting mix to go slightly drier than normal.

*Use Summit Mosquito Bits® labeled for fungus gnat control. Sprinkle this product on the soil surface or mix with potting mix prior to planting. The active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*. This naturally occurring bacterium only kills larvae of fungus gnats, black flies and mosquitoes. It's safe for people & pets.

*And always be sure to read and follow label directions whether using natural or synthetic pesticides.

*** Aphids**

IDENTIFY: These small tear drop shaped insects suck plant juices causing the leaves to yellow, brown, wilt or become distorted. They secrete a clear sticky substance known as honeydew.

CONTROL:

*Place plants in the sink or tub and knock the insects off the plant with a strong blast of water.

*Follow with several applications of insecticidal soap, NEEM or horticulture oil labeled for use on houseplants. Repeat applications may be needed. These are safe for pets and people.

*Bonide systemic houseplant insect control is applied to the soil, absorbed by the plant and provides weeks of control. It also contains fertilizer. Keep treated plants out of the reach of pets and children that like to graze on your indoor plants.

*And always be sure to read and follow label directions whether using natural or synthetic pesticides.

* **Mites**

IDENTIFY: These tiny pests are relatives of spiders. Most gardeners notice the damage before spotting the tiny pests that require a hand lens to see. Damage includes a speckling of the leaves, yellowing and browning. These pests also secrete the clear sticky substance called honeydew. Shake a leaf over a white piece of paper for easier detection.

CONTROL: Same as aphids. Repeat applications are usually needed.

* **Scale**

IDENTIFY: Hard bumps that can be scraped off the stems and leaves. These insects also secrete honeydew.

CONTROL: Start by gently removing the hard-shelled adult scale using your fingernail or old toothbrush. Then treat the nearly invisible clear nymphs (immature stage of scale) as you would aphids. Persistence is key to success. Continue to monitor, control the adults as they appear and treat the clear immature scale.

* **Mealybugs**

IDENTIFY: Cottony masses on stems, leaves and area where the leaves join the stem are usually a soft scale known as mealybugs. They suck plant juices and secrete honeydew.

CONTROL: Start by dissolving the cottony cover and killing the insects and eggs below. Touch each cottony mass with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. Then treat the clear nymphs (immature stage of mealybugs) as you would aphids.

* **Whitefly**

IDENTIFY: Clouds of tiny white fly-like insects can be found resting on your plants. Shake a stem and watch them fly away. They cause similar damage as aphids and mites.

CONTROL: Yellow sticky traps can help reduce populations and subsequent damage to the plants. Follow recommendations under aphids if greater control is desired. Persistence is essential for controlling with pest.

Written by gardening expert, Melinda Myers. Melinda Myers is a nationally recognized gardening expert with more than 30 years of horticulture experience. She is a wealth of knowledge and we are pleased to share Melinda's Gardening How-To with you!

Poem read by Charlene and Gerry at our December Banquet

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust
If you plant goodness, you will real friends
If you plant humility, you will reap greatness
If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment
If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective
If you plant hard work, you will reap success
If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation

So be careful what you plant now:
It will determine what you reap later.
Think about this for a minute

GARDEN PANTS PHOTO GALLERY



GNS board at December Banquet- Marty Winn, Charlene Ackerman, Gerry Palmer, Heddi Schellbach, David Levine, Merilee Novinson Stephanie Girardi and Karen Finerman not pictured



Charlene at art gallery in Boca Raton Florida



**Hibiscus tree blooming indoors in winter
Charlene Ackerman**



Utah flower # 1 "what is this" - Jane Bareng Werner



Utah Flower #2 Jane Bareng Werner



Delicate Arch - Arches National Park, Utah
Jane Bareng Warner

Send in your photos on gardening and nature to me for publication in "Garden Pants"
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