

Official Publication of the Gardeners of the North Shore

# Garden Plants



April 2015 Volume 76 Number 1

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President: Merilee Novinson

Gardeners of the North Shore is Back

Spring is Here with New Programs and Events for 2015

**April 7** Diane Smith, "Giving your yard curb appeal"

**May 5** Herman Pigors, "Orchids"

**May 16** Field Trip, Pesche's Garden Center

**June 1** Sharon Yiesla, "The Rest of the Natives"

**June 9** Field Trip, La Paloma Gardens, Rockford

**July 7** Kris Jarantoski, Exec. VP of CBG

**July 26** ***Garden Walk***

**August 4** "Annual Garden Party and Pot Luck"

**August 8 – 9** Annual GNS Show and sale at the CBG

**September 1** Jill Selinger, Manager, Adult Education CBG, "Bulbs 1"

**October 6** Alan Schulman, GNS Member "Bulbs 2"

**November 3** Joan Sayre, "Bees, Bugs, Butterflies"

**December 1** Banquet

Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month and start at 7:30 p.m. in the Pullman Room at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

The next Executive Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00 P.M. in the Pullman Room, CBG, prior to the regular meeting.

## Garden Walk Reminder

Our Garden Walk is scheduled for Sunday, July 26 from noon to 4 p.m. Two gardens have been selected so far for this year. Anyone else interested in being considered should contact Gerry Palmer, Garden Walk Chair, at [palmtree60045@yahoo.com](mailto:palmtree60045@yahoo.com).

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April 7, 2015 speaker is Diane Smith.

“Giving your yard curb appeal”



Diane Smith grew up in the North Shore, graduating from New Trier. After graduating from Washington University and joining a law firm in Chicago, Diane left the legal profession to follow her passion. Diane in a few short years went from attending lectures at the Chicago Botanic garden to teaching them. Perennial Professionals was a natural extension of her love of gardening. What began as simply Diane planting bulbs for her friends; has blossomed into a landscaping business that is among the most esteemed, and recommended in the North Shore. Diane is happily married with three children.

Diane holds a Certificate of Merit in Ornamental Plants and Shrubs from the Chicago Botanic Garden. She has had gardens featured in Lake Magazine. She is a former instructor at The School of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

# President Message by Merilee Novinson

Welcome back Spring!

This issue of ***Garden Pants*** has many informative articles about what is planned for our Club this year and we hope you will make a cup of coffee or tea and read through them all. Your Executive Board was busy meeting during the cold of winter to make sure 2015 is a busy, exciting, educational and fun year! I would also like to heartily thank **Bob** and **Sue Rosenbacher**, our new Co-Editors of ***Garden Pants*** for a very smooth transition from previous Editor **Marty Winn**. It is clear, by the appearance and content of this issue, they have put in lots of time and thought to keep the *Garden Pants* an informative, helpful and high quality newsletter.

One important change this year is the time and place for our Executive Board meetings. This year we will meet in the Pullman Room of the Chicago Botanic Garden from 6 – 7 p. m. (our monthly meeting room) just prior to our regular meetings at 7:30. As Executive Board meetings are open to all members, if you come early to our meetings feel free to join us!

Please mark your calendar for our meetings and special events listed at the top of the *Garden Pants*.

Another important update this year for GNS is the change of our website address to: **[gardenersofthenorthshore.org](http://gardenersofthenorthshore.org)**

Please check this out as another way to remember when GNS events are happening or to find contact names for questions you may have. That's it for me. Enjoy this warming weather and the opportunities it gives to get back outside. We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting of 2015 on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. when Diane Smith will talk about how to improve your home's "Curb Appeal."

Remember, if you are a member of GNS, you are eligible for a 10% discount on CBG membership.

## Member Mentoring Program

**Do you need help with a vegetable garden?**

**Would you like garden design advice?**

**Are you looking for help growing plants indoors?**

**Would you like to start a fairy garden?**

If you answered “**Yes!**” to any of these questions, we are here to help through the Gardeners of the North Shore **Member Mentoring Program**. As a member of our Club, you are eligible for help from other talented members. Our membership has specialists ready to help you. It’s easy! It’s Free! All you need to do is ask!

Please email Marty Winn @ [GNS1939@aol.com](mailto:GNS1939@aol.com) and explain the kind of help you would like. Marty will have a member with the skills best suited for your need contact you to see how they can help.

The benefit of this program is we get to know each other better by helping one another...and we become stronger as an organization.

**Start 2015 with new ideas from a fellow gardener.** We’ll work together to help achieve your gardening dreams!

## **Do you love to bake?**

### **Can you contribute perennials from your garden?**

If you can answer, "YES!" to one or both of these questions, your Club would appreciate plants and baked goods to sell during our Garden Walk this July.

If you are willing to dig up and divide perennials from your garden this spring, please let us know. We will give you direction on the best way to prepare the divisions for the sale. For our passionate bakers, we will need your skills around the time of the Garden Walk, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Any kind of baked goods will be appreciated and offered for sale at this Annual Garden Walk which is free to the public.

Please consider helping us. Proceeds from this sale allow our Club to focus on its educational goals throughout the North Shore of Chicago.

Thanks for thinking about this. Please contact Merilee Novinson at: [GNS1939@aol.com](mailto:GNS1939@aol.com) to discuss what your contribution can be and any help you may need in providing plants and/or baked goods.

## Disinfecting pruning tools in winter: When you need to play it safe

Disinfecting pruning tools in winter is not as critical because plants are dormant and many disease pathogens are not present. But it's still a good idea in some situations. (GERALD MARTINEAU, The Washington Post)  
By Tim Johnson Chicago Tribune

Winter pruning? Just because it's cold doesn't mean you don't have to disinfect tools.

A gardening friend of mine told me that I should be disinfecting my tools whenever I am out in the garden pruning this winter. Is this really necessary?

— *Susan Winter, Highwood*

The purpose of disinfecting tools is to avoid transferring disease-causing bacteria or spores from an infected branch to another branch or another plant. It is most important to disinfect tools during the growing season and whenever you are working on a diseased plant.

In winter, when plants are dormant and many disease pathogens are not present, I seldom see a need to disinfect pruning tools while doing routine pruning. However, it depends on the plant and the likely disease.

For example, fire blight bacteria, which infect trees like crab apples, apples, pears and hawthorns, do not overwinter in the trees' vascular system, making it unlikely that you would transfer this disease when pruning during the winter dormant season. However, if you prune fire blight-infected plants during the growing season, you should disinfect your tools after every prune.

# Plan, Plant and Grow an Invisible Edible Garden



There are many edibles that can be added to an ornamental garden without decreasing the beauty of the landscape. Amaranth and quinoa are lovely, tall flowering plants that are grown primarily for their edible seeds, though the leaves of quinoa can also be eaten when the plants are young. They come in a variety of colors and would make a dramatic backdrop in any sunny landscaped area.

The flowers of the vegetable okra, shown above, are so gorgeous that many people plant it for that reason alone. Of course it would be a shame to not harvest the vegetables when they are small and use them in a seafood gumbo or the Indian dish bindi masala.

Flax can be found in blue, white red and gold varieties. They produce a delicate flower with feathery leaves on stems that range from one to three feet high. The edible portion is the seed that follows the flower, and it can be used in baking or as a substitute for eggs or oil in many recipes.

Nasturtiums are just one of the many flowers that are edible. They produce a variety of colors and have a slight peppery flavor. They are most often used in salads or as a garnish, and we have even seen them frozen in ice cubes to add a touch of whimsy to punchbowls.

Herbs, too numerous to name, are a common edible found in ornamental gardens. Some are grown for their gorgeous leaves, like purple and green

basils. Others produce very exotic-looking flowers; milk thistle is a good example. There are a number of herbs that are perennial, cutting down on the need to replant. Others are annual plants, but they will often reseed themselves with abandon. (Depending on your area, some herbs can be quite aggressive. Anything in the mint family, which also includes balms and oregano, can take over a garden and are best planted in containers.)

Carrots and parsnips grow their edible portions below ground, but you see pretty, delicate, fern-like leaves above. The tops can get to about two feet tall, but they are wispy and gently bend over making them a very attractive plant.

Ornamental hot peppers, such as 'Chinese 5 Color', add novelty as well as edibility to the garden. This particular mildly hot variety changes color from purple to cream, then to yellow, orange and finally red. At any given time you will likely have all the colors scattered about the plant. It is a compact variety, and it can also be container grown.

Sweet potatoes, related to morning glories, make a beautiful vining groundcover. Who would suspect that under those pretty leaves, which are also edible, there is a storehouse of nutrition? If you have an area that is tiered, sweet potatoes would be wonderful to grow along the edge so that the leaves could cascade down.

Wild purslane is considered a weed by many gardeners, yet it is actually quite nutritious. The cultivated varieties have a much nicer appearance than the wild type, with their thick leaves and delicate flowers. The leaves are the edible portion and are often added to salads. It may be rampant in your area, because although it is considered an annual, it will reseed itself. You can help prevent this by removing the flowers as they appear, or at least before they have a chance to set and scatter seeds.

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Thank you Stephanie Girardi for purchasing seeds and creating seed envelopes and labels. The seed packets will be our Garden Club's business cards for our Garden Show. In addition, Sue Rosenbacher has sample packets of Osmocote for Garden Show visitors. Board Members, make sure you have completed your seed packets and bring the packets to the April Board Meeting.

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## Can you be a Nourishment Provider?

Help make our monthly meetings more fun by being a Gardeners of the North Shore Nourishment Provider. Nourishment Providers aide conversation after our meetings by bringing delicious snacks. Providers are needed for July through November. The following months are already provided for as follows:

April, Gerry Palmer

May, Merilee and John Novinson












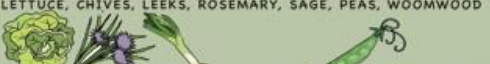




















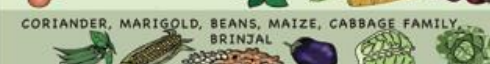

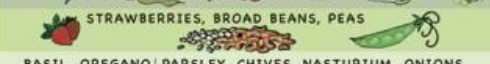
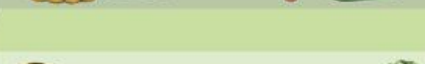
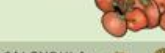

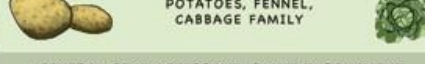

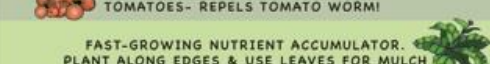
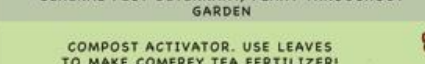
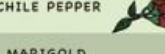
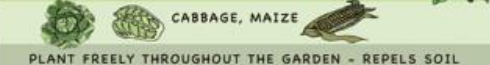
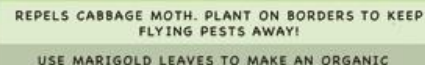
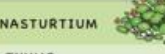
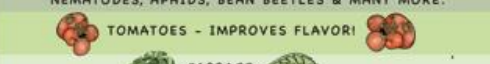



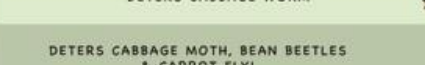


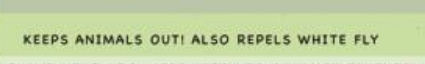



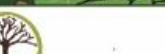





June, Marty and Barb Winn

Next month's Garden Pants will have articles on vegetable planting dates, and mulching.

The following chart, Companion Planting, highlights good and bad companion plants that assist each other to grow well, plants that repel insects, even plants that repel other plants. If this topic interests you, Louise Riotte has written [Carrots Love Tomatoes](#) and [Roses Love Garlic](#).

# COMPANION PLANTING

IN NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS, PLANTS PERFORM FUNCTIONS THAT CAN EITHER HELP OR PREVENT OTHER PLANTS TO GROW. THE SAME IS TRUE IN OUR GARDENS. CERTAIN PLANTS GIVE NUTRIENTS BACK TO THE SOIL, WHILE OTHERS NEED TO TAKE UP NUTRIENTS. PLANT AROMAS AND FLOWERS CAN ATTRACT POLLINATORS OR DETER PESTS. BELOW IS A CHART TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHICH PLANTS GROW WELL TOGETHER AND WHICH TO PLANT FAR APART!

PLANT	GOOD COMPANIONS	BAD COMPANIONS
BEANS 	MAIZE, SUNFLOWERS, LAVENDER, CABBAGE, CUCUMBER, STRAWBERRIES, BRINJAL 	ONION, GARLIC, FENNEL 
BEETROOT 	BEANS, ONIONS, GARLIC, LETTUCE, CABBAGE 	
BRINJAL 	CALENDULA, MARIGOLDS, MINT, PEAS 	
BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER, KALE 	AROMATIC PLANTS, DILL, SAGE, ROSEMARY, POTATOES, BEETROOT, CELERY, GARLIC, ONIONS, GERANIUM 	TOMATOES, POLE & RUNNER BEANS, PEPPERS 
CARROTS 	LETTUCE, CHIVES, LEEKS, ROSEMARY, SAGE, PEAS, WOODWOOD 	STRAWBERRIES, FENNEL, CABBAGE 
LETTUCE 	CARROTS, RADISH, STRAWBERRIES, CUCUMBER, BEANS 	CELERY, PARSLEY 
MAIZE 	SUNFLOWERS, AMARANTH, BEANS, PEAS, & OTHER LEGUMES, PUMPKIN, SQUASH, CUCUMBER, MELONS, & OTHER CUCURBITS, PARSLEY 	CABBAGE, TOMATO, CELERY 
ONION/ GARLIC 	CARROTS, BEETROOT, STRAWBERRIES, TOMATOES, LETTUCE, CABBAGE 	PEAS, BEANS, PARSLEY, LEEKS 
PEAS 	LAVENDER, CARROT, TURNIP, RADISH, CUCUMBER, MAIZE, BEANS, GROWS WELL WITH MOST VEGETABLES & HERBS 	ONION, GARLIC 
PEPPERS 	TOMATOES, GERANIUM, BASIL, CARROT, ONION 	BEANS, KALE, CABBAGE FAMILY 
POTATOES 	CORIANDER, MARIGOLD, BEANS, MAIZE, CABBAGE FAMILY, BRINJAL 	PUMPKIN, CUCUMBER, SQUASH, MELONS, SUNFLOWERS, TOMATOES 
SPINACH 	STRAWBERRIES, BROAD BEANS, PEAS 	
TOMATOES 	BASIL, OREGANO/ PARSLEY, CHIVES, NASTURIUM, ONIONS, CARROTS, CELERY, CALENDULA, GERANIUM, BORAGE 	POTATOES, FENNEL, CABBAGE FAMILY 
CALENDULA 	TOMATOES- REPELS TOMATO WORM! 	GENERAL PEST DETERRANT, PLANT THROUGHOUT GARDEN 
COMFREY 	FAST-GROWING NUTRIENT ACCUMULATOR. PLANT ALONG EDGES & USE LEAVES FOR MULCH 	COMPOST ACTIVATOR. USE LEAVES TO MAKE COMFREY TEA FERTILIZER! 
CHILE PEPPER 	CABBAGE, MAIZE 	REPELS CABBAGE MOTH. PLANT ON BORDERS TO KEEP FLYING PESTS AWAY! 
MARIGOLD 	PLANT FREELY THROUGHOUT THE GARDEN - REPELS SOIL NEMATODES, APHIDS, BEAN BEETLES & MANY MORE. 	USE MARIGOLD LEAVES TO MAKE AN ORGANIC GENERAL INSECTICIDE SPRAY! 
NASTURIUM 	TOMATOES - IMPROVES FLAVOR! 	REPELS WHITE FLIES & SPIDER MITES 
THYME 	CABBAGE 	DETERS CABBAGE WORM 
ROSEMARY 	CARROTS, CABBAGE, SAGE, BEANS 	DETERS CABBAGE MOTH, BEAN BEETLES & CARROT FLY! 
WORMWOOD/ ARTEMESIA 	AROUND GARDEN EDGES 	KEEPS ANIMALS OUT! ALSO REPELS WHITE FLY 
YARROW 	PLANT FREELY THROUGHOUT THE GARDEN. REPELS SOIL NEMATODES, APHIDS, BEAN BEETLES, AND MANY MORE! 	PLANT NEAR AROMATIC HERBS TO ENHANCE ESSENTIAL OIL PRODUCTION 

A DIVERSE GARDEN IS AN ABUNDANT GARDEN. HAPPY PLANTING!



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