

May 16, 2025

Dahlias Living Fireworks by Carol Cichorski
Program Chair - Joey Preins

Carol and her husband Mike 'found' dahlias 25 years ago and their lives have not been the same since. They plant tubers in the basement in February and grow 200-300 plants each year, with 65 of them going to their own garden. Mike is past president of the Central States Dahlia Society, while Carol loves to share their dahlia passion and let you know how you can grow *dahlias* too.

June 16, 2025

Monarch Butterflies and Pollinators Project
Program Chair - Barb Madigan
Helen Plum Library 6:30 p.m.

After 20 years of steep declines in the number of monarch butterflies, this year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will complete the process of listing monarch butterflies as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and Communities Protecting Pollinators will share the many ways everyone can help monarchs and endangered pollinators thrive and survive in our yards and communities.

June 27, 2025

Gardening for Life by Marilyn Joyner
Program Chair - Barb Madigan
Helen Plum Library - 1:00 p.m.

Join us for insights on the right plants, ergonomic tools, raised beds and vertical systems to use in mechanics. Marilyn will help us practice the stretching exercises she uses.

July 17, 2025

Phone Photography by Erica Benson
Program Chair – Sharon Rakowski
First Church of Lombard - 6:30 p.m.
220 South Main Street, Hatfield Hall

Erica Benson will demonstrate and guide us through using a cell phone to best photograph gardens and nature vistas, with results showing flowers and vegetables to the best advantage. Erica is a professional photographer who has been a photojournalist for over 20 years and teaches part time at College of DuPage.

August 22, 2025

Language of Flowers by Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh
Program Chair- May Anstee

Unlock the Secrets of the Victorian Era with The Language of Flowers! Explore the captivating art of floriography where we decode the hidden messages behind beautifully arranged blooms. Learn the Victorian language of flowers and see how to construct a mini bouquet called a tussie mussie. Participants will learn the language then interpret displayed bouquets, and one lucky member will take a bouquet home.

September 26, 2025

Fantastic Fall Flowers by Heather Prince
Program Chair - Joey Preins

You can have flowers from your garden on your Thanksgiving table. Heather Prince will explore which perennials bloom in autumn and add color to our late season gardens, be it sunny or shady. Fall flowers also play an important role in feeding our pollinators before hibernation or migration.

October 24, 2025

Beginning of Bonsai by Linda Camp
Program Chair - Sharon Rakowski

A bonsai enthusiast of 25 years and partner in B. C. Bonsai for 21 years, Linda will be presenting an overview of what is bonsai and the different trees that may be used. She will also discuss their care and needs and how beginners may get started. Books, beginner tools and other supplies for sale.

November 14, 2025

All About Hydrangeas by Bill Karges
Program Chair - Nancie Stewart

Hydrangeas are known for their large, showy blooms in shades of pink, blue, white and purple, and they come in various forms like mopheads, lacecaps, and panicles, blooming in summer and into fall. Bill will explain the differences between the various types of these popular plants so you can choose the right type with confidence.

December 12, 2025

Winter Luncheon
Location TBA

Shamrock Flower Florists, Ltd. by Linda Trovey
Program Chair - Jeannine Warkow

January 23, 2026

Bison Tales and Tall Grass Trails by Cindy Crosby
Program Chair - Barb Madigan

Hear master gardener and natural history writer, Cindy Crosby, explain how Illinois' original garden, the tallgrass prairie, has been shaped by bison. Learn how these charismatic megafauna are being restored to Illinois prairies, listen to tales of their connections, both historical and contemporary, to some Native American tribes and discover the ways bison have been portrayed in music, literature, art and popular culture as you view images of these fascinating creatures.

February 27, 2026

Bee-coming an Advocate for Nature by Bruce Blake
Program Chair - Sharon Rakowski

Monarch butterfly populations are down. Native bees are declining up to 80% in some areas. Many other insects and pollinators have lost habitat and food sources. This in turn affects birds, amphibians and other animals that depend on them for food. Learn how you can be an important part in helping the natural world thrive. Some of the things we talk about are native plants, Dark Skies, pesticides and changing climate.

March 27, 2026

Fixing Climate Change in Your Backyard and Frontyard by Mike Nowak
Program Chair - Jeannine Warkow

The decisions we make in our yards can make a huge difference in saving plants and animal species and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Mike walks you through the basic native plants (especially oaks), harvesting rainwater, reducing lawn area, composting and other gardening decisions. All designed to help your yard conserve rather than deplete natural resources.



FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION LUNCHEON
Program Chair - Joey Preins

Location TBA

“Hollywood in Bloom” by Dr. Annette Bochenek

Join Film Historian Dr. Annette Bochenek for a presentation about the impact and symbolism of gardens, forests, and plant life in Golden Age Hollywood films. From depictions of stunning gardens and forests to flowers in bloom, classic Hollywood films have long been inspired by nature.