



PORTAGE PARK GARDEN CLUB

Come Help Us Grow

January 18th, 2024

In this issue:

- Introducing the New Board Members
- Our 2024 Program at a Glance
- Don't Rush to Rake
- Announcements

Welcome to the 25th year of the Portage Park Garden Club. Our first meeting will be **Saturday, February 24th, 2024 at 9:30 am**. We will meet at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 5106 N. LaCrosse where there is plenty of free parking, ground level meeting room and easy access to bathrooms. We serve coffee and snacks. We will be playing Bingo with fun prizes to win!

2024 at a glance...

Feb 24th
Treasurer's Report
Bingo

March 23rd
Gardening Indoors
Joy Walker

April 27th
Flower Arranging
Harry Nyholm
Sharpening by Dave

May 25th
Landscaping
Rich Hord

June 29th
Garden Walk

July 27th
Speaker TBD

August 24th
Field Trip

September 28th
Speaker Bats

October 26th
Board Elections
Year in Review

Our New Board Members

Anita Klein: President
Lisa Smith: Vice-President
Sherry Fantauzzo: Secretary
Debra O'Kennard: Treasurer
Jerald O'Kennard: Tech Support
Julie Larsen: Programming/Outreach
Joy Walker: Communications/
Newsletter

Inquiries about joining the Portage Park Garden Club should be emailed to ppgardenclub10@gmail.com.

Don't Rush to Rake

Irene Flebbe, Assistant Director, Trailside Museum of Natural History, has shared several articles which detail the benefits of leaving the leaves on the ground.

<https://xerces.org/blog/dont-spring-into-garden-cleanup-too-soon>

<https://xerces.org/blog/leave-leaves-to-benefit-wildlife>

continued on next page



Comments, suggestions and contributions about this newsletter may be sent to Joy: justonlyweb@gmail.com. Please include PPGC in the subject heading.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2022/10/17/fall-leave-leaves>

and the New York Times recently published this article:

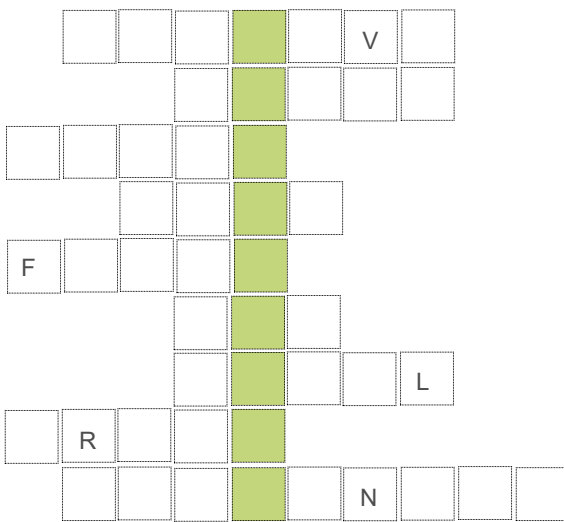
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/19/us/raking-leaves.html>

Most people don't know that it is illegal in Illinois to throw fallen leaves out with the trash. Leaves that end up in landfills generate methane gas and contribute to climate change. The leaves need to be placed into yard waste bags kept separate from the black and blue bins and you should call 311 to request a special pick up. But what about grass? Excessive leaves left on top of grass damage this popular herbaceous plant. Recommended options include raking the leaves into garden beds, adding them to compost drums, or waiting to rake them in Spring. Grass lovers should be mindful of snow mold. There are two fungi—Typhula blight (gray) and Microdochium patch (pink). Snow mold is more likely to develop when the snow is heavy. If snow mold does occur it should be removed and the area reseeded. As you read about this issue: to rake or not to rake there are choices to be made. Grass, a nitrogen sucking, short rooted, non-native plant requires care to survive. Leaving leaves too long in Spring is not a good choice for supporting grass lawns. As grass awakens, those tender shoots need sunlight! There are many alternatives to grass: deep rooted native plants, garden beds, gravel pathways to name a few.

Announcements

Please consider donating items for our raffles. Items should be new or in excellent condition and should have a gardening theme. Wine is an exception to this (*well not really because wine comes from grapes;-)*

Consider volunteering your garden for the June garden walk.



- A holiday event is...
- It keeps the neck warm
- Wet, wet snow
- Unique flakes falling
- Crystals on surfaces
- Winter skating surface
- Bone _____
- Walking speed
- What bears do in winter

Solve the puzzle and the Yiddish word in the green boxes describes a raffle prize.



Can you name the green plant in this photo?

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