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"The purpose of Heaven and Earth Growers is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share grace and fellowship through education, protect the environment with organic endeavors, and take responsibility to the community by sharing our bounties."

EPC Children's Garden

On May 27th, 2007,

Heaven and Earth Growers and children of the Elmhurst Presbyterian Church began a new chapter with the building and planting of the Children's Garden, located on the east side of the property. The garden is 24' x 16', with a picket fence, pea gravel walkways, and approximately 96' of planting area beds. The children have planted beans, cucumbers, eggplant, carrots, peppers, lettuce, squash, tomatoes, etc. Individual stakes were made for the children to write their names on which identifies their planting area. Each gardener will take care of his or her plantings. When the vegetables come to harvest, the children will gather and distribute to the charities that were designated.

There are many people to thank for their help in building and additions to the garden. It's a very gratifying feeling to know that these children will not only learn the process of gardening, but of harvesting and then giving to those who are in need.

Heaven and Earth Growers has been in contact with The Humanitarian Service Project. They receive donations for seniors and families with children. The "Feed the Kids" project distributes groceries to 75 families in the DuPage County area. This not-for-profit corporation, along with the other charitable organizations will begin to reap the harvest of H&EG and friends.

The drop off location for donations of ripe, organic produce will be in the P.A.D.S. kitchen downstairs at EPC. Calling ahead of your drop-off would ensure our delivery of fresh vegetables to charities. Contact information is on page two.



EPC's Children's Garden was first planted on May 27th, 2007. This happened to co-inside with the arrival of the 17-year cicada phenomena in Elmhurst.

ALSO, CONSIDER SOME PRODUCE FROM YOUR OWN ORGANIC GARDEN. TOGETHER WE CAN SHARE WITH THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY.



Next invasion will be 2024.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

- ♦ *July 7th monthly meeting; 9:00 a.m.*
- ♦ *August 4th monthly meeting; 9:00 a.m.*
- ♦ *September 8th monthly meeting; 9:00 a.m.*
- ♦ *Topics and dates are subject to change.*

BE KIND TO THE EARTH.

With the world weather problems, rivers and lakes drying up, ice melting, horrific weather conditions, people are finally catching on to earth conservation. It's important to be organic in your own home and yard, raise or buy your food locally, to compost your scraps, recycle, drive less, carpool or ride your bike.

If you do not already have a compost, think about doing so. It's fairly easy and really does not smell if you follow some simple rules of layering brown matter (leaves, sawdust, pine needles, straw, etc.) and green matter (pesticide free

grass clippings), vegetable and fruit scraps, spent flowers, eggshells, coffee grounds, etc. Be patient for the end results. You'll be happy at the end and wonder why in the world you would ever pay for fertilizer.

There are numerous options for framing the compost. Check out sites on the internet for different types of containers. Or you can simply designate a yard area to pile your scraps. My first compost was just a heap of leaves and kitchen scraps. Today we have five bins that rotate: one for fallen leaves (so we will have brown matter in the summer), three for woody scraps, one for layering garden compost. At the July 7th meeting, we'll talk more

about composting, or you can email us for more information.

Website to check out: City of Chicago, Department of Environment, How to Make a Rain Barrel.

What's Midwest Ripe?

July: herbs, peas, beans, greens, squash, lettuce, spinach, cucumbers, onions, beets, cherries

August: corn, tomatoes and just about everything. Fruits like peaches and blueberries should be ready to pick by early August.

Don't forget to share.

Summer garden to do list:

- ◆ Plant a second crop of beans and carrots (for later harvest). Colder weather crops such as cucumbers and peas can also be started.
- ◆ The end of the first week of July is a good time to plant new crops of lettuce, carrots, beans, chards and beets.
- ◆ Order roses and bulbs for your fall planting.
- ◆ Don't forget to deadhead your flowers to encourage new growth. Save seeds for those you want to plant next year.
- ◆ Middle of August is a good time to feed fruit trees, but stop fertilizing your roses.



H&EG Club News



Flower tip: 1 qt. water, 1 tblsp sugar, 2 tblsp. white vinegar. The sugar feeds the flowers and preserves the bloom color. The vinegar controls the ph.

Many thanks to Spiritual Director, Retreat Facilitator and Reiki Master Nancy Hoel who gave a talk on the Spirituality of Gardening for our April meeting. It is comforting when we all meet: our commonality to work the earth and share our love of growing things is a wonderful bond. Yes Nancy, there truly is spirituality in gardening. Thanks again for your wonderful tour.

Our July 7th meeting will include Craig Happel and his advice on composting, and the importance of worms in the garden. We have tried to get this topic included in our meetings in the past, but so many other items were more important at the time. July is the perfect time for this discussion, and perhaps we can pick a location where we could build a compost

bin for the children's garden.

I have made my first hypertufa container and feel confident that we can all have fun working with earthen clay. The containers are "curing" as seen in the picture below. We will have a demonstration on making an English Trough, or hypertufa soon. The recipe for making one contains sand or perlite, fiber mesh, Portland cement, peat moss and water.



Four of our members have plots at the Elmhurst Golden Meadows. We pray for rain and a

good harvest. We will be looking for people who will help in the distribution of the fresh vegetables. Normally most of the produce comes ripe in mid-July thru September. With the hot weather this year, we have already started picking vegetables and they have been taken to a charity. We are hoping that others who garden at home or at community gardens, will consider donating some of their harvest to feed those who are in need, and there are many who go hungry in our surrounding communities. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jan Happel, Pauline DeWitte or Cheryl Turek.

Upcoming meetings are July 7, August 8, September 8. **Anyone interested in gardening is welcome to attend.**

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Those who plant
have faith that
God will make it
grow.