



MILLER GARDEN CLUB SPEAKER TO ADDRESS

“WHY AQUATIC PLANTS MATTER IN OUR COMMUNITY”

April 21, 2018

The Miller Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Avenue, Gary, Indiana 46403 at 10 a.m. There will be a brief business meeting followed by speaker Nathanael Pilla who asks, *“What the heck is a Potamogeton?”*. Pilla is a botanist for Orbis Environmental consulting and a board member of the Indiana Plant and Wildflower Society North Chapter.

Prior to his work with Orbis, Pilla worked as the project coordinator for Save the Dunes and as biologist for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. He received his Master of Science in Biology with a focus on Plant Ecology from Purdue University Northwest. Pilla created the website for native plants in Northwest Indiana, www.indunesguide.com and co-wrote the award-winning booklet on Indiana mushrooms, *Living in the Dunes*.

Learn why pondweeds and other aquatic plants are important to our water systems, backyard ponds, and decks. He will highlight some good native aquatic plants and some invasive bullies. He will also discuss why it is important to use native plants in our aquatic gardens. You will never look at the plant caught on the end of your fishing hook the same way again.

The Miller Garden Club currently has over 200 members and plans three major fund-raising events per year beginning with the Spring Plant and Rummage Sale, Saturday, May 12; the Summer Secret Garden Walk, date TBA, and the Fall Brats & Bulbs Sale, Saturday, October 20, 2018. All events take place at the Aquatorium building in the Marquette Park, Gary, Indiana and are open to the public.

Garden Club meetings take place on the third Saturday of the month from March through October and feature speakers of interest on subjects ranging from gardening to ecology to stewardship of our natural resources. Outings to various local environmental locations take place throughout the year. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Members receive a periodic newsletter with information about events and other gardening information.

The Miller Garden Club's mission is to provide gardening education on all levels; to protect native trees, plants and wildlife, and to beautify the Miller Beach community in Gary, Indiana. The club is a 501©3 organization founded in 1998. Club members tend the gardens along the Lake Street Business district, the South Shore train station, the Woodson Branch Library, the Aquatorium and many other locations throughout the Miller Beach community.

For further information contact Joanne Stratton 312-543-1561 of jmstratt@sbcglobal.net or Miller Garden Club.org on Facebook.

