



The Trowel

Bloomingdale Garden Club

Volume 1, Issue 1

President's Prose

Hello Dear Members and Friends,

What a strange winter we have had with hardly any snow, mild one day and frigid the next, I bet all of you are hoping that spring is right around the corner! To be honest, last summer was way too hot and dry for my liking and I am rather enjoying the snow when it happens, especially as we need the water so badly.

It has been a while since we enjoyed receiving a newsletter and I am delighted that our Cathy Kreis has volunteered to take on the task. I know that we will all enjoy receiving the news and I thank her. Now, this is not an easy job if one has to do it alone, so I appeal to each and every one of you to send Cathy tidbits of news and interesting photos so that she can share them with all of us in due course.

The Plant Sale Committee has already been busy – under the energetic leadership of Linda Kunesh – to get things ready for our most important fund raising event of the year and I am looking forward to sharing the activities (and labor) with you, so please volunteer to help and turn up to enjoy the day(s) together. Remember this year the venue has changed to the Park District facility on Springfield Drive.

To those of you who said prayers and sent good thoughts out for my sister, I want to thank you as the reports have come back that after a whole year of chemo treatments, she is cancer free. Please continue to say your prayers for those members in our Club who are not well.

We have another year of educational and entertaining lectures and so I hope to see all of you at our meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at the Police Department, behind the Village Hall on Bloomingdale Road.

Stay well and safe,
Joyce Basel.

Upcoming Club Meetings

We have fabulous meetings lined up for 2013. I will highlight the upcoming 3 months, with a full listing inside the newsletter.

March 19

An evening with Ivan Micek, "Capturing & Sharing" Ivan will share his love of using photography and we will all be making some handmade notecards.

April 16

Nancy Carroll will speak on "Go and Grow Green". She will share, in her fun way, how to repurpose and reuse items for the home and garden. She will turn recyclable trash into whimsical art objects and will show practical new uses for our everyday, throw-away items.

May 21

Don Guzan will present his program "Backyard Critters—The Good, The Bad, The Ugly". Hopefully we'll become a little more informed, especially about the coyotes who have been in the news lately.

All meetings begin at 6:30 at the Bloomingdale Police Station.

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Special Points of Interest

- *Jan Rigggenbach of The Daily Herald recommends a new tool by Gary Byers: All-in-1 Pruner, Knife & Tool Sharpener. Approximately \$15 Available at Tractor Supply or from Creative Sales Company, 406-892-3070, prunersharpener.com*
- *March 15 District II Annual Luncheon Meeting*
- *April 21-22 GCI Annual Convention, Downers Grove*

Plant Sale News

2013 BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB FLOWER & PLANT SALE FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 3 & 4

Spring will be blooming soon with the arrival of beautiful flowers from our professional grower in Michigan. We'll also have perennials from members' gardens. **Club member help is needed for MANY things:**

CLEAN Gallon Milk Jugs with Lids Needed: Since our new location is indoors, we need to be able to display the flower and pricing signs. Please start collecting gallon milk bottles and lids. CLEAN thoroughly. We will put sand in these and use them to hold up the signs. Milk jugs needed by April 20th. Bring to the Potting Party.

Perennial Potting Party, Saturday, April 20, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Rain or Shine). Cathy Gall's house, 264 Crestwood Lane, Bloomingdale. Bring your perennials with information attached and we'll help pot them up. Also bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage. See additional information about the Potting Party elsewhere in this Newsletter.



Plant Sale Prep, Thursday, May 2, 5 – 9 p.m. We'll be bringing over the perennials from Cathy's house and take all equipment to our NEW location – the Bloomingdale Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Drive (NORTH end of Springfield Park), Bloomingdale. VANS, TRUCKS, SUVs especially needed for this process! We hope to set up as much as we can this evening to save time for the next morning to unload the flowers upon delivery from Bartels.

Flower Delivery & Staging, Friday, May 3, 5:30 -10 a.m. We need LOTS of help unloading the flowers and staging the flats, cases, and baskets of flowers. Bring your family members, friends, and neighbors to help.

Picking Up Pre-Sale Orders, Friday, May 3, 9 – 10 a.m. We'll do our best to have all pre-sale orders pulled, set aside, and ready for pick up by 9 a.m. but please be patient. We will not sell to the public until all pre-sale orders are pulled and set aside.

Plant Sale: Friday, May 3, 10 a.m to 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Help is needed for set-up, sales, and clean up. Contact Linda at 630-221-8684 or kunesh310@comcast.net to let her know WHEN you will commit to help.

Gift Certificates: Still available from Henia (847-985-8408) or may be purchased at Patti's Hallmark in Addison. These make great Mother's Day, Easter, and birthday gifts. Day-of-Sale prices apply.



“2013 GUIDELINES FOR PERENNIALS”

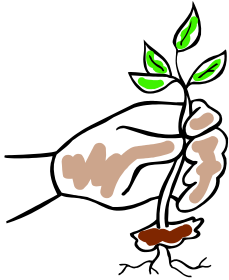
BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB FLOWER AND PLANT SALE

We LOVE getting plants from our Garden Club Members and their friends for our Annual Flower and Plant Sale. Below are a few “guidelines” we’d appreciate you following to ease your preparation and help our Garden Club get the most profit we can while giving our customers high quality, member-grown plants.

Plan ahead. **Perennials for our sale should be dug up NO LATER THAN APRIL 20TH to allow the plants to “settle in” into their pots.** Be sure they are watered regularly and receive sufficient sun/shade so they can acclimate to their potted home.

Use a pot size that accentuates the plant’s full, lush growth for early spring. Use regular plastic pots, e.g., 6”, 8”, 10”, or 12” for potting (no plastic bags please). Call Joyce (529-9833), Roberta (630-295-8315), or Linda (630-221-8684) if you need pots.

The size of the pot and the condition of the plant will determine our pricing.



Please use potting soil, NOT garden soil or dirt. The more attractive our plants are, the better they will sell. Re-use “old” potting soil from last year, if necessary, or purchase all-purpose potting soil at Home Depot, Lowe’s, etc., to cut down on your cost. (You do not need to purchase ‘Miracle Grow Soil-less Potting Mix.’) They will be transplanted by the customer within a few weeks from the time you pot them up. To minimize the mess, put a piece of newspaper or a new coffee filter in the bottom of the pot to cover the hole so the soil does not fall out.

By April 10th, call Cathy Gall (630-980-8493) or email (jocagallfam@att.net) to let her know what plants you will provide, how many, their height and spread, bloom time, and their growing conditions. Please include in your call or email the common name, along with the botanical name if you know it. Cathy will use this information to prepare labels for the plant markers. She’ll contact Bobbie and Henia to let them know so they can make printed signs that will be posted in the group of “like plants.” An example is shown below:

Qty 3 – ‘Autumn Joy’ Sedum (*Herbstfreude*). Pink (changing to rust) flowers in flat heads; fleshy green leaves. 24” H x 18” W. Full sun or partial shade. Flowers August-September.

Potted perennials need to be dropped off at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Garage at 259 Springfield Drive Thursday, May 2nd 6-8 p.m. or 6-9 a.m. on Friday, May 3rd. Plants dropped off later may not be available for sale.

Important Notes: We do not have the resources available to help dig up plants unless there is an unusual circumstance.

There will be a Perennial Plant “Potting Party” on Saturday, April 20th, 11 to 5 p.m. (NO RAIN DATE) at Cathy Gall’s house, 264 Crestwood Lane, Bloomingdale. Bring your dug-up plants (with information attached). Members of the Club will assist you in potting them.

Please do not be offended if we “price” your plant for less than you think is appropriate. As the Sale progresses, or if we have an abundance of similar plants (e.g., day lilies), prices may be reduced to “Buy 1 [at highest price]; Get 1 [or 2] FREE.”

Questions or Concerns: Contact Cathy at 630-980-8493 or Linda at 630-221-8684.

Membership Notes

At our business meeting in January 2012, we had an active membership of 40 members, of whom 4 are honorary members. We added 14 new members in 2012. Thanks to everyone who helped increase our membership: Publicity (Helen Price) for the great connections she has developed over the years with her media contacts, our Program Committee (Bobbi, Maureen and Cathy K) for the great programs they line up which attracts new people to our club, and to all of you who bring in friends and family that share our love of gardening!

Unfortunately, we lost one of our dear members, Edythe Griffin in April. Her daughter, Jennifer, has since joined our club.

We also had 55 visitors, of whom 11 joined during the year. As of December 2012, we had an active membership of 53 members, of whom 3 are honorary members.



2013 Programs

Bobbi, Maureen and Cathy had a great time organizing a wonderful schedule of meetings with very diverse topics.

March 19—Ivan Micek

Capturing & Sharing—using landscape photography to make notecards.

April 16—Nancy Carroll

Go and Grow Green—repurposing and reusing household items for the home and garden.

May 21—Don Guzan—Backyard Critters, The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

June 18—Jan Hanson U of I Extension, Fairy Gardens

July 16—Julie Moore U of I Extension, Don't Doubt the Drought

August 20—Eileen Wanders
Flower Arrangements from the Bible

September 17—Joanne Rocchi
Success with Bulbs

October 15—Mark Spreyer
Who's Who of Owls

November 5—Nursing Home Craft

December 3—Christine Plier
Christmas Evergreen Tree Craft

*Earth laughs in flowers.
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Chicago Flower & Garden Show

From **March 9-17**, the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, The Art of Gardening, will roll out the green carpet at Navy Pier! Get ready for **an olfactory treat** when you tiptoe through 1,000 beautiful, blooming hyacinths in our Artist Palette Garden and prepare to be wowed by our first-of-its-kind U.S. exhibition of Ecuadorian roses, prized for their incredible size and beauty.

Through the American Institute of Floral Designer's (AIFD) "make and take" workshops, you'll learn **insider secrets** to creating

stunning floral arrangements from the industry's top designers that you will be able to take home. Our "How-To" garden, presented by The Home Depot and Diet Coke, will host upwards of 100 workshops and classes, providing gardening and landscape pointers you can use to beautify your surroundings.

"The Art of Gardening" will inspire, educate and motivate gardeners of all abilities and ages.

Show parking starts as low as \$10 at the Navy Pier East and West garages.

Order Chicago Flower & Garden Show tickets online – you'll **save \$2 off the walk-up price** on each adult ticket and skip right past the box office line!
www.chicagoflower.com

It's Our 50th Birthday!

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Bloomingdale Garden Club will be celebrated on 19th October 2013 at the Bloomingdale Golf Course on Glen Ellyn Road. A gala banquet is planned and the menu has already been selected!



Please mark your calendars and plan to bring your family and friends to celebrate this milestone with all of us. Our Club is one of only two such organizations to have survived for fifty years and we will be recognizing those long-time members who put so much time and energy into the Club and made it what it is today.

The Mayor has promised to help promote awareness of the event and to issue a Proclamation. The evening will include entertainment and a truly fine dinner as well as the joyful camaraderie of our members.

From the Better Homes & Gardens Garden Doctor:

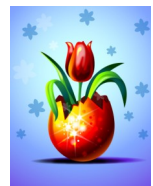
Should you pinch flowers and buds off newly planted annuals? No. This old practice won't help most modern types. However, snipping spent blooms and pinching back leggy stems creates a better-looking plant.

Good Cheer—Member Concerns

*Esther Ahlrich's husband, Paul. His cast is now off. He is on a walker and doing fine. Hoping his dialysis will go to two times a week soon!

*Geri Beyer—began a new round of chemotherapy on February 26.

Plant a Winning Combo



Better Homes and Gardens suggests these tips in their March 2013 issue:

1. This spring, before perennials fill in, note the location of openings where you can plant bulbs.
2. Order bulbs in summer, then plant as soon as they arrive. Use a bulb auger instead of a trowel for easier planting between perennials.
3. Use bulbs categorized as mid-spring bloomers, rather than early- or late-spring bulbs. They flower about the same time that many perennials emerge.
4. If you plant naturalizing bulbs, which return each year, let the foliage dry up before you remove it. It probably won't be noticeable—most perennials are large enough to hide fading bulb foliage.

Bloomington Garden Club

Meeting Location:
Bloomington Police Station
201 S Bloomington Rd
Bloomington IL 60108

Email: cathyjk@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 630-351-9336

We're on the Web!

www.bloomingtongardencub.org



The Bloomington Garden club was formed to encourage the advancement of gardening, development of home grounds and civic beautification. To stimulate interest, knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs. To aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds. To further the extermination of noxious weeds and to cooperate with other organizations in the beautification of the community.

Membership is open to all persons at his or her request of application regardless of residence. Annual dues for a single new member are \$20 and \$25 for a couple, when paid January 1-June 30. Half year dues for a single new member are \$10, and \$12.50 per couple when paid July 1 thru December 31.

2013 Club Officers

Position

President.....Joyce Basel
1st Vice President.....Marilyn Johnson
(Membership)
2nd Vice President.....Roberta Pulido
(Programs) Maureen Gibson
 Cathy Kreis
Publicity.....Helen Price
Newsletter.....Cathy Kreis
Website.....Cathy Gall
Treasurer.....Henia Sullivan
Good Cheer.....Esther Ahlrich
Hospitality.....Mary Fortino
Secretary.....Pat Seriano
Ways & Means.....Linda Kunesh

Garden Club Meeting, Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 PM

Description: Handcrafted Greeting Card Workshop presented by local artist Ivan Micek. Ivan embraces creativity in his pursuits, whether it be gardening, photography or inspirational greeting cards. Ivan recently won third place in the Kinsman Company Living Wreath Photo Contest, created with shade coleus. In previous years his container garden was featured in the Chicago Tribune's Glorious Gardens Contest and the Bloomington Garden Walk.



Please call Bobbi Pulido, 630-295-8315 or Cathy Kreis, 630-351-9336 if you are coming so Ivan can plan appropriately. Also, bring scissors and a glue stick!