

# The Trowel



Bloomington Garden Club

Volume 1, Issue 2

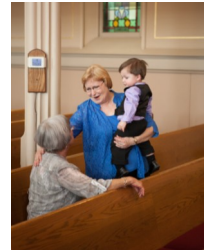
## President's Prose

The sun is finally shining after what seems like a week of gloomy, cold and rainy weather! Not that I dislike the rain – actually I love it especially as I have almost finished planting all my little annuals and they definitely need a drink. It's the cold that is no fun!

How many of you attended the Memorial Day Celebration at the little cemetery on Lake Street on Monday? I did see some of our members – we were all bundled up as it was really quite cold – and I hope that you all enjoyed the ceremony as much as I did. This year the tribute was to the Vietnam Vets and a number of them came forward to tell of their experiences. Our own Bert West and George Holtz were among the Veterans being acknowledged. On behalf of the Club, I thank them for their service to our country.



On a really bright note: The Wedding of the Year for the Club was that of Katie Price and Vince Romano. Katie is the daughter of our own Helen Price! I had the pleasure and the privilege to do the flower arrangements for the bridal entourage – everyone looked so lovely. We hardly ever get to see our members really dressed up! And wow, you should have seen Helen in her stunning gown and Henia in an absolutely breathtaking outfit. We are lucky to have these two lovely sisters with us – they are beautiful inside and out!!



As you all know our Plant Sale was an outstanding success! And thank goodness we were inside - the first day was really awful weather wise! Linda has reported on this elsewhere but I want to take the opportunity to thank her for her endless endeavors, for keeping us on time, in line and on the ball. There is absolutely no doubt that this event would not be as successful without her untiring efforts.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to visit with the new Mayor of Bloomington, Franco Coladepietro and I discussed with him the plans for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. I will keep you all up to date in this regard and hope that you have your lists ready so that we can send out the invitations!!

Well, now the sun is really shining and so I am going into my garden! Happy summer everyone!

Joyce

## Upcoming Club Meetings

We have had three great meetings so far this year. Here is what is coming up:

### June 18

Jan Hanson, a Master Gardener presenter with the U of I Extension will present her program, "Fairy Gardens". Unlock the mystery into the magical world of Fairy Gardening! She will inspire us to create our own miniature garden (inside or

out) where gnomes, fairies, elves and other wee folk can frolic. Jan will cover the basic folklore of this age old form of gardening, as well as ideas in design, construction, use of creative containers, plant material choices and of course accessories.

### July 16

Julie Moore, a Master Gardener presenter with the U of I Extension will present

her program, "Don't Doubt the Drought". Remember how hot/dry 2012 was? Julie will discuss how our landscapes will respond in the years to come. What will the impact be on our perennials, flowering shrubs, and ornamental trees? What should we be looking for with established trees and how to help our landscape plants recover.

### August 20

Eileen Wanders, a poet and

an artist, will present her program, "Flower Arrangements from the Bible". She will share her knowledge of plants that are written about in the Bible and use them in arrangements. These are plants that we can incorporate in our landscapes as well.

All meetings begin at 6:30 PM and are held at the Bloomington Police Station.

## 2013 FLOWER & PLANT SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

You often hear “It takes a Village to raise a child.” Well, it takes an entire Garden Club (and a lot of friends & family) to have a successful Flower & Plant Sale! Despite a nervous start (the truck from Bartels Nursery got lost and arrived an hour later than expected) the 2013 Bloomingdale Garden Club Flower & Plant Sale, May

3-5, was the best in the Club’s history!

***The net profit was \$6,901 – more than twice what we’ve ever made!***



### SPECIAL THANKS AND

#### RECOGNITION... go to Bloomingdale

Garden Club members Esther Ahlrich, Shari Aldous, Joyce Basel, Geri Beyer, Joyce & Joseph Boryla, Gail & Chris Brewer, Marilyn Dattilo, Roberta DiBasillio, Virginia Engel, Mary Fortino, Cathy Gall, Laura Geraci, Maureen Gibson, Loriann Gulik-Hoyle, George Holtz, Marilyn Johnson, Irene Jones, Kathryn Kacalo, Sandy Kappeler, Cathy Kreis, Linda Kunesh, Carole Lockerbie, Chris Magnatowski, Jennifer Moore, Lorraine Morgan, Kathy Noltin, June Nowick, Helen Price, Roberta Pulido, Bonni Rothbaum, Laura Sewall, Sandy Sinnamond, Carol Ann & Dave Spencer, Henia Sullivan, Pauline Thomas-Brown, Kelly Vitacco, and Georgette West and their families and friends for contributing perennials and/or helping at the Potting Parties, selling perennials on Wednesday, transporting plants and equipment, setting up for the Sale, arriving at 5:15 a.m. on Friday, and helping throughout the Sale!. Your help was awesome!!!

Bert West, the Bloomingdale Park District, Village Support, & George Holtz: Thanks especially goes to Bert West for having the initial conversation with Joe Potts, Director of Parks and Planning at the Bloomingdale Park District, regarding if/how the Garden Club could assist the Park District with designing new flower beds! Who would have thought this conversation would lead to all that transpired!?!

The new venue at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building obtained as a result of this conversation between Bert and Joe and then further supported by Barb DeCanio’s involvement with the Park District’s interest in new planting beds resulted in this greatly appreciated indoor location. Once again, the weather was not our friend, especially on Friday when it was cold and rainy most of the day. Having the Maintenance Building gave our Sale wonderful shelter to display and sell our flowers to hundreds of customers that shopped! Adding tables gave our displays that “professional touch.” Huge thanks goes to Joe Potts for his assistance to obtain the Maintenance Building and his coordination with his staff that were extremely courteous and helpful! Joe also graciously allowed us to stay an extra day which proved fruitful as we were able to nearly “sell out!” Thanks also are extended to the Village for providing sand for the sign display bottles and to George Holtz for hauling over the sand, filling the bottles, and drilling holes in the caps to hold more than 125 plant and price signs.

Publicity... Helen Price did an outstanding job on publicity! Newspaper articles about our Sale began in late January and ran most Sundays in the *Daily Herald*. Thank you, Helen! Thanks, also, to the many websites that publicized our Sale, e.g., the Village of Bloomingdale, Bloomingdale Park District, and area schools.

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Pre-Sale Orders...nearly doubled from last year! Huge thanks goes to Henia Sullivan for organizing all that was involved so that pre-sale order customers got their requested orders! Thank you also, Henia, for all the work you did to prepare the plant descriptions and signs!

Perennials & Potting Parties...Cathy & John Gall once again hosted the Perennial Potting Party – well actually TWO parties! Given the cool and wet weather and the fact that so few perennials were coming up in our gardens, it was necessary to have two parties rather than the traditional one. Apparently that paid off in a BIG way! **Proceeds from perennials alone were \$1302!** Thanks to Cathy & John for hosting the potting parties; to Cathy for making all the perennial labels for the pots; to the many Club members that contributed perennials and/or helped to get them potted, labeled, priced, and transported to the Maintenance Building; and to Marilyn's neighbor, Jose Molinar, for the use of his trailer. Thanks also to Krista Poierier (Linda's niece) and FuMei Thrun (friend of the Garden Club) for additional donations of perennials!

Container Raffle...Barb DeCanio, Master Gardener and friend of our Club, designed and planted two beautiful large containers for a special raffle, **the proceeds of which netted the Club \$197!** Barb also was instrumental in assisting us to obtain the new venue as she volunteered her time and talents to design new flower beds for the Park District. Thanks so much, Barb! Winners of the raffle were Joyce (who declined), followed by George Holtz and Mary Ellen Johnson.

Master Gardeners...University of Illinois Extension DuPage Master Gardeners were on hand to answer gardening questions. What was even more amazing is that when we were running against the clock to set aside pre-sale orders before we opened to the public, they helped fill some of the orders! Thank you Master Gardeners Karen Harris, Carl Giessel, Karen Pachyn, Jeff Schoder, Maureen Bulwan, Nancy Grove, & Arla Ronayne for all that you did to support us!!!

Vendors...Thanks to Carol & Mike Cichorski, the "Dahlia People," for serving as a vendor at our Sale. They donated 10% of their sales back to the Club. And our very own Marilyn Johnson provided the Solar Garden Art from her Hallmark Store (Patti's Hallmark in Addison) at cost so that the proceeds were pure profit for the Club! Marilyn also arranged for the sale of the rain barrels!



Intergenerational Support...The 2013 Flower & Plant Sale again was intergenerational! Thanks are extended to the Girl Scouts from Troop #41227 and to the Lake Park National Honor Society high school students for their volunteer assistance at the Sale. The Girl Scouts also donated \$56.50 to our Club from the sale of their adorable flower lapel pins.

Additional Appreciated Donations...Thanks, too, are extended to Lydia Modugno for the table covers; Marilyn Dattilo for her donation of spider plants to sell; Esther Ahlrich and Mary Fortino for the delicious pulled pork and Italian beef, and to additional

Club members for contributing coffee cakes, treats, and other delicious food we all enjoyed at the Sale.

Keepers of the Money & "Security"...Thanks are also extended to cashiers, Geri Beyer, Cathy Gall, and Henia Sullivan for keeping track of all that money; to Mary Fortino for "standing guard" over customer's purchases (ask her about her security job!), and extra special thanks to Henia for tabulating all the checks/ cash, making deposits, and finalizing the deposits and expenses report!

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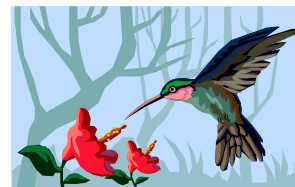
Donations...As has been customary with our Flower & Plant Sales in the past, we donated all left-over flowers and plants. Recipients included the Bloomingdale Village Hall, Police Department, and Public Works; Bloomingdale Historical Museum; Medinah School District; St. Paul Lutheran Church; Corpus Christi Catholic Church; Girl Scout Troop #41227; container gardens for our senior members (designed and planted by Sandi Sinnamond); DuPage Convalescent Center ; Joe Potts; and DuPage County Health Department Group Homes. The Club's generosity is amazing! Total donations in flowers from the Club were \$514. Plus, Henia personally donated \$350 in flowers to the DuPage Convalescent Center from the stipend she declined from financially administering the Reeve Grant. How awesome is that? We also were delighted that the Group Homes took all remaining perennials!

2013 Flower & Plant Sale Committee...And finally, HUGE THANKS are extended to the 2013 Flower & Plant Sale Committee – Esther Ahlich, Joyce Basel, Geri Beyer, Mary Fortino, Cathy Gall, Maureen Gibson, Marilyn Johnson, Cathy Kreis, Linda Kunesh, Helen Price, Roberta Pulido, and Henia Sullivan – for their many, many, many hours planning and working on the Sale since January and supporting a “larger than usual” Sale by ordering a LOT more flowers: What an outstanding Committee!!! The success of this year's Sale is due, in large part, to them!

Stay Tuned...Plans are already underway to build upon our success for the future. Watch for information about a possible 2013 Fall Perennial and Bulb Sale, along with plans for 2014!

Linda Kunesh

## How to Attract and Feed Hummingbirds



The folks at Birds & Blooms (June/July 2013) shared their thoughts on this tiny beauty:

**Want to attract more hummingbirds? Do you have...**

**A large garden—Lucky!** You can go crazy with plants and bushes hummingbirds love—cannas, fuchsia, pentas, hibiscus, salvia and columbine, to name just a few. Plant them all together for a real hummingbird haven.

**A small space—Don't Worry.** Hummingbirds visit patios and balconies, too, with the right mix of plants. Try phlox, verbena, calibrachoa and petunias, which are all easy-care container plants.

**One feeder—No Problem.** Since it's the only feeder you've got, make it count. Keep a close eye on it to make sure it's never empty, or the hummingbirds will lose interest. For a little extra impact, hang a basket of red impatiens nearby.

**Several feeders—Keep 'Em Happy.** To encourage several hummingbirds to visit regularly, space feeders out of sight of each other to prevent territorial competition. Try providing perches or even a misting water feature.

**I've got hummingbirds, but I need some solutions to these feeder problems:**

**Ants or bees have taken over my feeder—Let's Get This Taken Care Of.** For bees, make sure your feeder is equipped with bee guards. The best defense against ants is an ant moat which is essentially just a cup of water hanging above your feeder to keep the ants from reaching the feeding port.

**The sugar water goes bad so quickly—Don't Let It Spoil.** If possible, hang your feeder in the shade. And remember, it's crucial to keep the feeder clean and the sugar water fresh. (Don't forget, the recipe is 4 parts water to 1 part sugar.) If the sugar water is cloudy, it's time to replace it.

**My feeder is so hard to clean—You're Not Alone!** Some readers sweat than an old toothbrush or bottle brush will reach all the crevices of a hummingbird feeder. Or try mixing a tablespoon of uncooked rice and water in the feeder and shaking vigorously. Rinse the feeders well after any cleaning.

## BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB DONATES AND PLANTS FLOWERS AT THE DUPAGE CONVALESCENT CENTER

May 18<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful spring day when 13 members from the Garden Club planted flowers at the DuPage Convalescent Center (DPCC) that were donated by the Club and member, Henia Sullivan! Nearly a thousand flowers were planted in the "Rainbow Cutting Garden," pots, hanging baskets, and the fountain. Club members first had a tour of the Resident Garden, learned about its 30+ year history, and then got to work planting and spreading mulch. They also installed about 100 tomato cages in the Residents' individual garden plots!



Special thanks go to Shari Aldous, Joe & Joyce Boryla, Roberta DiBassilio, Maureen Gibson, George Holtz, Linda Kunesh, Carole Lockerbie, Jennifer Moore, Helen Price, Bobbie Pulido, Henia Sullivan, and Kelly Vitacco for all their hard work!

About the Center...DPCC has been providing quality long-term care and rehabilitation to DuPage County residents for 125 years! Currently it is the home to nearly 350 Residents, ages 23 – 106, who

have long-term medical needs and/or significant disabilities. Staff employ interventions of treatment, therapy, and activity to restore health, dignity, and hopefulness to Residents by assisting them to do as much as they can, as well as they can, for as long as they can. An integral part of DPCC's recreation therapy is therapeutic horticulture that encourages Residents to remain vigorous and engages them intellectually, physically, and creatively.

Making a Difference...Residents say our Club's involvement makes a difference in their lives! Many Residents visit The Garden daily and love being immersed in its beauty and serenity, use it for physical therapy activities, and just as an oasis to think, recharge, and enjoy. Families considering DPCC as the home for their loved ones are brought through the Resident Garden as they tour the DPCC and are astounded there is such a place available. The Resident Garden is considered the "JEWEL" of DPCC. The Resident Garden was even used last year by a family for wedding photos so that a Resident could participate in her grandson's special day!

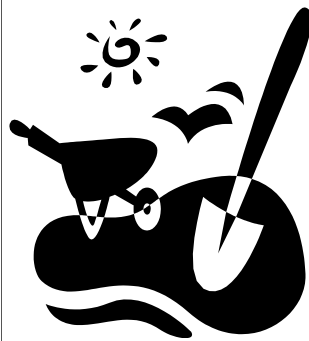
The Resident Garden Program...The Resident Garden features nine wheelchair-accessible raised beds, along with ground level sun and shade gardens, and vertical gardens. Vegetables and flowers planted by the Residents are enjoyed by them and their families; others are entered in the DuPage County Fair. Resident Gardeners also donate hundreds of pounds of their produce to the People's Resource Center Food Pantry each year! This year 42 individual Residents (the most in the Center's history) are participating in the Resident Garden Program. Twenty additional Residents will participate in unit or neighborhood plots. This brings the total "hands on" gardening experience to more than 60! Add to this the large number of Residents and their families that come out to The Garden on a regular basis to connect with nature – it truly is an amazing place enjoyed by many!



A Reception to Thank You...Later this summer, Bloomingdale Garden Club members will be invited to a "Thank You Reception" at the Center so Residents and staff can share with you the results of your labor and generosity and express their gratitude. More details to come.

Linda Kunesh

## Membership Notes



Watch for a revised membership list coming soon! You will receive it by email providing we have an email address on file for you. If not, we will make sure you get a copy.

We currently have 51 members, down 2 from 2012. Remember, our membership dues helps cover the fees we pay to our great speakers. The Board recently agreed that we will not lose any members because of financial hardship. If you know of anyone in this position, please contact either Marilyn Johnson, Joyce Basel or Henrietta Sullivan. This information will be kept in the strictest of confidence.

## 2013 Programs

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

## A Little Poem, submitted by Marian Jonas

*A little seed for me to sow...*

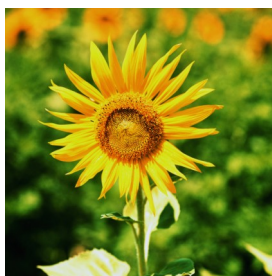
*A little earth to make it grow...*

*A little hole, a little pat...*

*A little wish, and that is that.*

*A little sun, a little shower...*

*A little while, and then—  
a flower!*



## Catch those Mosquitos the natural way...

You'll need:



*2 liter plastic bottle*

*1 c. water*

*1/4 c. brown sugar*

*1 t. yeast*

*Cut the plastic bottle in half. Mix brown sugar with hot water. Let cool. When cold, pour in the bottom half of the bottle. Add the yeast. No need to mix. It creates carbon dioxide, which attracts mosquitoes. Place the funnel part, upside down, into the other half of the bottle, taping them together if desired. Wrap the bottle with something black, leaving the top uncovered, and place it outside in an area away from your normal gathering area. (Mosquitos are also drawn to the color black.)*

*Change the solution every 2 weeks for continuous control.*

*When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive—to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.*

## It's Our 50th Birthday!

More and more ideas keep popping up for the Anniversary Celebrations!! It's hard to keep tabs on everything, but your Committee is reviewing everything and making plans and decisions. This promises to be a singularly wonderful event and I am hoping that each and every one of you is planning to attend. If you have not marked your calendar already – do so right now – Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013!!!



It is time to send out the “mark the date” notes to everyone we are inviting and so I am requesting that you all provide me with a list of those friends and family to whom you would like an invitation sent. We need name and address please!! Remember that we have 50+ members and if each of us just brings one more person, we will have one hundred guests!! What we want is for each of us to bring at least two more people!!

This is your party!! It celebrates fifty years of uninterrupted service to our community! We are among the most fortunate of clubs to have several members who were with us at the beginning and this celebration will honor them and their service to the Club for half a century!!

We are going to need volunteers for special duties and I will be calling on you soon! Let's all get together to make this marvelous!!

## Deadheading Tips

### ***Make a Tool Box***

*Matt Blashow, host of DIY Network's 'Yard Crashers,' suggests finding an old mailbox. Paint it up as you wish and put it in the middle of the garden. Use it to stash little garden tools, (pruners, snips, gloves). It adds a pop of color and provides storage where we use our tools.*

From Garden Gate Magazine

### **Pinch Florets**

With plants like daylilies, which have lots of flowers on one stem, pluck off individual flowers as they fade. Or you can remove branches or clusters of flowers, the asters, leaving buds or branches below the cut to send out more blooms.

### **Remove Spent Stems**

Shasta daisies and many other perennials produce one flower per stem. Cut that stem to the ground after it blooms. And after you've pinched off the flowers off a daylily stem, cut the whole thing off at the base.

### **Shear**

Some perennials, such as 'Moonbeam' coreopsis, produce so many flowers over the entire plant that you can't remove them individually. It's easier to simply shear the entire plant within a couple of inches of the ground after the main flush of flowers finishes.

## Good Cheer—Member Concerns

\*Bert West—Bert, diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis, appreciates all your prayers, cards and concern as he works hard to regain his strength and stamina and adjusts to his new life with this disease.

\*Geri Beyer and Mary Fortino—keep them both in your thoughts and prayers as they endure treatments with grace.



## Organic Solutions from Bill Scheffler

Some wonderful organic solutions for our summer flower/veggie gardens and lawns.

### Japanese Beetle Deterrent

8 oz. Coke/Pepsi (not diet, be sure it has Phosphoric Acid in it)

1 Gallon Water

Mix in sprayer and spray the foliage once/week in the evenings.

### Veggie Feeding

1 oz. Molasses

1 oz. Powdered milk

4-6 oz. Soda Pop (Coke/Pepsi)

1 Gallon Water

Spray on the foliage every other day.

### Lawn Conditioner

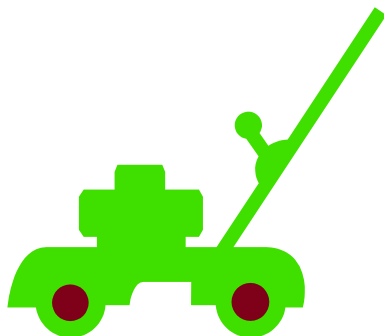
2-40# Milorganite

1-40# Lime (less than 5% Magnesium)

1-40# Gypsum

3 # Sugar

Mix together in wheel barrow or on a tarp. Apply to lawn quarterly. This will improve the condition of the soil, give it the calcium it needs and improve the water absorption.



## What to do with all these tomatoes!!!

Marilyn Johnson shares this “delicious” recipe....

### Creamless Creamy Tomato Soup

1/4 c. extra virgin olive oil, plus extra for drizzling

1 medium onion, chopped (about 1 cup)

3 medium garlic cloves, minced or pressed

1 pinch hot red pepper flakes

1 bay leaf

3.5 pounds of tomatoes, cut into 2 inch pieces **or** 2 (28 oz.) cans whole tomatoes in juice

1 T. brown sugar

3 large slices good-quality white sandwich bread, crusts removed, torn into 1-inch pieces

2 c. chicken broth (or vegetable broth, to make it vegetarian)

2 T. brandy (optional)

Salt and pepper to taste

1/4 c. fresh chives

Directions:

1. Heat 2 T. oil in Dutch oven over medium-high heat until shimmering.
2. Add onion, garlic, red pepper flakes, and bay leaf. Cook, stirring frequently, until onion is translucent, 3-5 minutes.
3. Stir in tomatoes and their juice. Using a potato masher, mash until no pieces bigger than 2 inches remain.
4. Stir in sugar and bread; bring soup to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally, until bread is completely saturated and starts to break down, about 5 minutes. Remove bay leaf and discard.
5. Transfer half of soup to a blender, add 1 T. olive oil and process until soup is smooth and creamy, 2-3 minutes. Transfer to a large bowl and repeat with remaining soup and oil. (Or use an immersion blender!)
6. Rinse out Dutch oven and return soup to pot. Stir in chicken broth and brandy. Return soup to a boil and season to taste with salt and pepper.
7. Sprinkle each portion with pepper and chives and drizzle with olive oil. Serve (of course) with cheese sandwiches.





## 'Dig My Garden' App

Local software development company, Spectral Sprockets of West Chicago, announces the release of version 2 of the garden app- Dig My Garden. The original idea was an anniversary present from the company founder, Roy Sinnamond for his wife, Sandi! She is a lifelong gardener of flowers, shrubs, vegetables and herbs. Each year as she was planning out gardens, it took hours of figuring out colors, heights and soil suitability for new plants she wanted to try. Roy knew technology could be harnessed to make this much easier and began writing the code full-time in 2012. Sandi has provided all photographs and research on individual specimens, most of them lovingly grown at their home. They also travel to all four corners of the states to add to the collection of plants for every gardening zone.



The premise of the Dig My Garden app is to create your garden bed; shape, size, soil and location - including your USDA hardiness zone. From there, your own plants are added! The plant list has over 500 plants (almost 400 are unique specimens) to search. Because each plant entry is researched, photographed and authenticated personally by the couple, the list is always growing. The plant list shows a marker shape which indicates the type of plant, such as perennial, biennial, annual, herb, water plant, shrub, vine, grass, ground, vegetable etc.; the marker color is the foliage color to help plan garden color schemes. Every plant entry provides a picture as well as common names, botanical name, cultivar information, bloom or foliage colors, growing conditions, tips, and observations, and the life cycle of the plant. Tips let you know if the flower is fragrant or perhaps edible, if it is best for bees, hummingbirds or butterflies, if it will require pruning or dividing, what style garden it may be suited for, if it will be attacked by pests, critters or deer and also if it is poisonous to pets or humans, and much more! Many plants also have incredible close-ups of the flower.

There is a filter to find that yellow-blooming flower you saw in springtime in Massachusetts, or find all the potential purple perennials in your zone. You can even mark your favorites. From the plant list, plants are easily added to your garden cart and are then planted in your gardens.

In your garden, the marker now shows how large a mature plant is, so is quite helpful in not overlapping those tiny seedlings! The exclusive Bloom Bar <sup>TM</sup> allows you to see what colors will be in bloom each season, so feel free to create that red, white and blue bed in time for the fourth of July! Or you can put pinks together for spring, and oranges in August. If you can't recall the plant, there is a picture icon to remind you of the flowers or a plant can be tapped to provide information. Plants can be transplanted, divided or composted here, too.

And of course, there is a journal which can be used as a separate activity or used from touching a plant to record bloom time, harvest time, bugs, pruning, watering, etc. of an individual plant. On the Weather icon, once you have put in the days high and low temps, along with any rainfall, you can elect to add it to your calendar. It will show you the last freeze or rain to help plan garden time.

It would be remiss to not include the Whatnot icon which offers a reminder tutorial walkthrough, a friendly glossary, the bibliography, and other resources, such as county extensions and botanical gardens in the US, for the user.

The app is available now on iTunes for the iPad, iPhone and iPod touch. Roy is fast at work on the next release, which will include the capacity to add your own unique plants to your garden and database. Like us on FB at [facebook.com/DigMyGarden](https://facebook.com/DigMyGarden), where posts and pictures are added frequently. Please feel free to email Sandi with gardening questions at [sandi@manifold-inc.com](mailto:sandi@manifold-inc.com).

## 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.bloomingtongardenclub.org](http://www.bloomingtongardenclub.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

## Tips for your Irises

**Harvest**...flowers in the cool of morning when they're freshest.

**Choose**...multi-branched stalks as soon as they first bud begins to open and others are showing color. Leave foliage in the garden.

**Cut**...stems at an angle with sharp shears or clippers. Plunge stems into cool water.

**Remove**...spent flowers as soon as they fade (each one will last a few days) to encourage other buds to open.

**Change**...water every three or four days. Floral preservative is unnecessary.

**Divide**...bearded irises every 3-5 years, or when the center dies out. With a knife, separate rhizomes. Each rhizome division should have one leaf fan. Cut the foliage back to 4-6 inches. Replant division 12-18 inches apart with rhizome tops barely showing above the soil surface.



Better Homes and Gardens, April 2013