

The Trowel



Volume 3, Issue 2

President's Prose

Dear Members and Friends,

Late yesterday afternoon I disembarked from the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight from Amsterdam (about 8 hours) and before that I had traveled (again on KLM) from Johannesburg (about 10 hours) !!! So you can imagine that I am a little jet lagged at this moment. However, I do want to tell you that this was an exceptionally wonderful trip and worth every minute of sitting for 18 hours on airplanes.

I am a Founder member of the African Zoo Association (PAAZAB), and one of only two Honorary Life Members! I am their sole fundraiser and for the past 28 years I have raised in excess of SARand 3million (\$300,000.00 U.S. dollars) from American zoological associations for the care of animals in captivity in Africa and for the education of the young people who visit them. It has been a labor of love and I am truly proud of the achievement. At this meeting I was presented with the original PAAZAB flag! And I had the wonderful opportunity to be chosen to "kiss a dolphin" as Ushaka Marine World! Wow! A unique experience and one that I will treasure.



I understand that the weather last week was not terrific, but today it is warm and sunny and my garden looks as though it needs water already. I am not looking forward to going out to pull weeds and have encounters with mosquitoes, especially as I am still dreaming about my beautiful hotel room that overlooked the gardens and the beach of the Indian Ocean just outside!

Even though I was gone but a week or so, a lot has happened in that short time and I am looking forward to hearing about the progress of the "Giving" garden and everything else that has occurred in my absence. It is good to be back and I am ready start working again.

See you all soon at the next meeting!

Joyce Basel



"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the blue sky, is by no means a waste of time."

—Sir John Lubbock, The Use of Life

Members make Glass Plate Garden Art

At our April meeting, we all enjoyed making pretty pieces of art for our gardens. All the extra projects were but together by Bonnie Rothbaum and Shari Aldous to sell at our Plant Sale.



Irene Jones



Bev Petrocius & Janiel Price



Joyce Basel

Many thanks to Bonnie and Shari for putting this project together. It was a ton of work. Hope everyone is enjoying their art in the garden.

Upcoming 2015 Programs

June 16

Garden Walk-Members Only

Tour Judy Markowski's Garden, Dessert & Beverages to Enjoy!

246 Eagle Ct, Bloomingdale

July 21

Shade Gardening—Beyond Hosta

Patricia Hill will help us explore unconventional options using unusual plant material, many native plants to our region.

August 18

Incredible Bats

Dan & Sharon Peterson

Their program will dispel myths as well explain the many benefits of these misunderstood and feared creatures. They will be bringing along some bats as well.



Membership

As we morn the passing of Marion Jonas and Ted Dabrowski (the first male member), we also have gained some new members. Since the first of the year we welcome Susan Michael, Mary Sue Fornari, Lynn Cieslewicz and Beverly Miotlke. We currently have 58 members. 2015 Membership Dues are still being collected. The dues are \$20 for singles and \$25 for couples. Please make checks payable to Bloomingdale Garden Club.

Be sure to remember to update the club if your contact information changes.

The new membership list will be emailed soon. Email buddies, please print up for your buddy.

Linda Kunesh saw this fun little saying on a gardening apron....

Romaine Calm and Carrot On



2015 FLOWER & PLANT SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Once again, Bloomingdale Garden Club members, their families, and friends turned out in great numbers to support this year's Flower & Plant Sale. Net profit topped **\$7,500 – more than we've ever made in our history!**

Here are a few highlights of the Sale:

- Park District Staff had the Maintenance Building ready for us early on Thursday.
- Many people helped set up the tables & signage at the Maintenance Building on Thursday afternoon & evening.
- The Bartels trucks arrived on time Friday morning – actually a few minutes early!
- More than 30 people helped get the plants from the trucks to their designated tables and were facilitated by “traffic directors” that had alphabetical lists of where each plant went.
- George's 2-tired racks beautifully displayed our hanging baskets which were organized again by Georgette West and Roberta DiBasilio.
- Pre-Sale orders were identified with a numbered flag for easier retrieval by the buyer and those that helped on Friday morning were able to pull their own orders.
- We opened at noon on time to the public.
- ‘Bloomin’ Buddies’ were available to assist customers in selecting their plants.
- Master Gardeners were available throughout the entire Sale time to assist customers and answer gardening questions.
- Esther Ahlrich, Mary Fortino and many Club members fed us well AGAIN!
- Helen Price's publicity efforts, supported by our website and that of the Park District were outstanding!!!
- Despite the crazy spring, our Perennials netted \$951!
- Yard Art and Butterfly Sipping Stations netted \$473!
- We sold out of the great gardening bags Marilyn obtained from Ace Hardware.
- The Raffles profit was \$215 and Georgette's beautiful paintings were wanted by many!
- And finally, having the Park District Maintenance Building for our venue again was an outstanding contribution to our successful Sale!!!

The Plant Sale Committee will de-brief in June to “tweak” some of our efforts and implement some new ideas for next year's Sale. While we do our best to “sell out” by Saturday, we appreciated the Park District's support and cooperation to allow us to continue selling on Sunday. And a special thanks to George & Kathryn for moving the plants from Sunday's sale to Marilyn's house for another 2 days of selling to members and friends.

Left-over flowers and plants were donated to a number of local not-for-profits, including Corpus Christi Church; Bloomingdale Park District; Medinah School District; Bloomingdale Golf Club; DuPage Convalescent Center; Habitat for Humanity; and DuPage County Group Homes. We also donated flowers for the Garden Club's Memorial Garden and veggies, herbs, and flowers for the Giving Garden.

Unfortunately, there isn't enough space in this newsletter to thank everyone for their individual and collective efforts. Please know you are greatly appreciated!!!

Your 2015 Plant Sale Committee: Shari Aldous, Cathy Gall, Loriann Gulik-Hoyle, Marilyn Johnson, Kathryn Kacalo, Cathy Kreis, Linda Kunesch, Bonni Rothbaum, Henia Sullivan, Kelly Vitacco, and “chief advisor,” Joyce Basel.

See Pictures on next page!

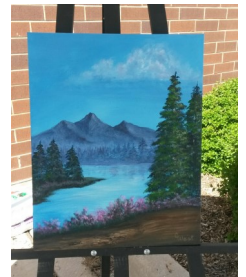


Plant Sale Raffle Winners



We would like to acknowledge the winners of our raffle items at the plant sale:

Georgette West's Iris Painting—Marion Sadler
 Georgette West's Landscape Painting—Denise Pauling
 Large Potting Bench—Kim Eilers
 Smaller Potting Bench—P. Workus
 Sun Container—Bill Baldwin
 Shade Container—Chris Magnatowski



Joe Potts' Words of Thanks

Hello,

I just wanted to thank the Bloomingdale Garden Club for being such gracious guests at our maintenance garage. Not to mention feeding us all so well, but your cleaning of the shop afterward and care of it during your plant sale showed great consideration for our work. I know it's difficult on Friday of sale week that we are all here trying to get our respective work done at the same time. Thanks for helping us get ours done by being flexible with your work.

It's a pleasure working with you all and I am very hopeful your sale this year was a great success.

Talk to you soon. Joe

The Giving Garden is Planted!

We had a great time on Sunday, May 17th with the first planting of the "From Plot to Plate" giving garden by the Bloomingdale Garden Club. We had a host of volunteers who help planted: Shari Aldous, Henrietta Sullivan, Jennifer Moore, Irene Jones, Loriann Gulik- Hoyle and her two great daughters, Aniela (7) and Nina (5), Sandra Schmitt, Bonnie Rothbaum, George Holtz, Kathryn Kacalo, Janiel Price and Marilyn Johnson. We planted tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, peppers, beans, radishes, carrots, onions, herbs and flowers to pollinate and deter certain insects from feasting on our produce. We will be donating the produce to various food pantries in the area, including, but not limited to, the Bloomindale Township and St. Paul's Church. I'd like to add a personal note of thanks to the committee: Shari Aldous for her great work in planning the garden and keeping the planting running smoothly. George Holtz for hard work from planting and digging up rocks in the garden to edging and putting up with all the women on the committee. Janiel Price for hosting our meetings at her house and jumping into this feet first with no vegetable planting experience and offering up tons of solutions and enthusiasm. Janiel will also be coordinating our volunteers to maintain and harvest. Last but not least, our awesome fundraiser, Kathryn Kacalo, who suggested a garage sale, ran with it and raised over \$1200 dollars so we could have all the supplies we need without burdening the garden club with expenses that none of us thought of.



Committee Update.....

Greetings, everyone. The community garden committee thought it would be a good idea to send out an update on how things are going with the community garden. So far, everything is looking beautiful. The good folks at the Bloomingdale Park District office tilled our soil and delivered our mulch, so we mapped out the garden, laid our mulch in the pathways, "sweetened" the soil, planted our seeds and plants and flowers (to make it look pretty!), installed cages, put down dog hair (as a critter deterrent), and spread straw over everything to help keep the weeds at bay. This past Sunday (May 24), we met again to add gypsum and more "sweetener" to the soil, erected our tomato enclosures, laid down more mulch in the pathways, and George was good enough to put together the new garden cart to make carting around all of our new garden tools easier. The cart will also come in handy for future plant sales! Marilyn brought the new garden hoses and she and Shari are making sure that the garden is receiving the correct amount of water. As I said, everything looks beautiful and I think we can all look forward to a wonderful harvest and be very proud of our collective efforts!!!

Janiel Price

Container Garden Speaker

I think we were all amazed when Laura Christiansen put 10, 4.5 inch pot-sized plants into a 12 inch decorative pot! Definitely an instant “Wow” factor. Laura shared her knowledge of many sun and shade plants, in the 3 categories of : Thriller, Filler, Spiller. Linda Kunesh was so correct to point out that we sold nearly every one of the plants at our sale. Start making notes now for your pre-sale orders next year. Laura also shared ideas of different types of potting containers that are available for all of us to try. She also encouraged us to put a little piece of art in our pots to give them personality.



Laura and Bobbi Pulido

Laura’s decorative planted pot was raffled off. Joe Bocuzzi won the initial raffle, but very graciously turned it down. Cathy Gall was the next winner and is she thrilled. She commented that it has inspired her to make some changes in her other pots. She wanted to give special thanks to Joe.

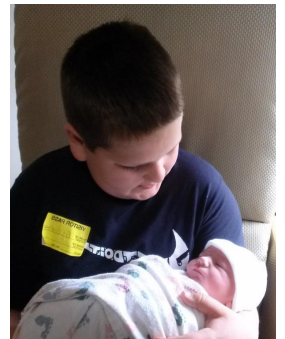


Members in the News



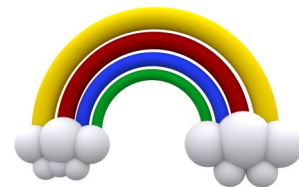
Helen Price, second from left, was honored on May 2 as a recipient of Bloomingdale’s Character Counts award. The mission of Character Counts is: to actively build and nurture trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship throughout the community. I think we can all agree on Helen’s award. Congratulations!

Helen also just became a Grandma again. Little Vincent arrived on May 16, weighing in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces, 21 inches long. His parents, Vince & Katie are so proud and big brother, Zeffy, is thrilled.



Be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud.

—Maya Angelou



Planting at the Convalescent Center, May 16

BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS & DUPAGE MASTER GARDENERS

PLANT AT DUPAGE CONVALESCENT CENTER

Despite the questionable weather on Saturday, May 16th, Shari Aldous, Joe Boccuzzi, Linda Kunesh, Jennifer Moore, Bonni Rothbaum, Henia Sullivan, and Kelly Vitacco joined seven Master Gardeners at DuPage Convalescent Center to plant the Rainbow Garden and other in-ground gardens at the Center.

Master Gardeners had started planting hundreds of flowers the previous Thursday because of the weather prediction for Saturday. So our combined effort was accomplished in a relatively short time. The end result was BEAUTIFUL!

The Center Residents, their families, and the staff are truly appreciative of our Club's ongoing flower donations and commitment of time to make the Resident Garden a beautiful outdoor oasis that is enjoyed by many.



Left to right: Joe Boccuzzi, Henia Sullivan, Shari Aldous, Kelly Vitacco, Ada Bleecker, Ann Klingele, Ellen Finegan, Deb Hornell, Jeff Schoder. Not pictured: Barb DeCanio and Linda Kunesh.

Not pictured: Barb DeCanio, Linda Kunesh

To-Do List

Better Homes and Gardens, June 2015, had a fun list of a few reminders for our gardens....

With the spring planting rush behind us, we set our sights on summer tasks in the Better Homes and Gardens Test Garden.

Support Crops: Add sturdy stakes or cages around tomato plants before they get too large. Use flexible plant ties to secure stems.



Harvest Greens: Enjoy salad crops before they bolt and get bitter. Replace with summer crops, such as beans, eggplants, and peppers.

Pinch Plants: Pinch back fall-blooming mums, aster, and Joe Pye weed every three weeks until early July to promote bushy growth.

Prune Shrubs: Shape up spring bloomers—including forsythia, quince, and lilac—immediately after they flower.

Check out BH&G's month-by-month garden tips specifically geared for our region at:

BHG.com/RegionalTips

GCI Summer Meeting

This meeting is hosted by District 1, Monday, July 20, from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The event is titled, "From Garden to Table" and looks to be a wonderful event.

It will be located at McHenry County College, 8900 U.S. Highway 14 (Northwest Highway), Crystal Lake, IL 60012

Registration must be submitted by June 30.

For further information, please see pages 6 & 7 of your Spring/Summer edition of "Garden Glories".

*The best things that come out of
the garden are gifts for other
people.*

Jamie Jobb



Got Ants???

Joyce Basel submitted a couple of fun tips from a friend, Carolyn Castleman.

Get Rid of Ants

Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it "home", can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have to worry about pets or small children being harmed?



Squirrel Away

To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.



So....how fast is your grass growing??? After an early May application of the Milorganite recipe and then some lovely rains, it is hard to keep up!

Fun Photos from Bonnie Rothbaum

Many folks shared their perennials with Bonni so that she could help her daughter restore an overgrown weed bed of a garden. Bonnie wanted to share some before and after photos and thanks all who donated.



Starting at top left and going clockwise: the weed mess, the cleared garden space, newly planted space as it came up this spring. Lots of work, but what a nice result.



Bonnie also planted up two pots for the Bloomingdale Golf Club in thanks for their publicity blast for our plant sale. I've seen them in person and they are very pretty.



Good Cheer—Member Concerns

***The Family of Marion Jonas**—Marion, one of our founding members, passed away on April 8. Our sincere sympathy to her loved ones.

***Jo Dabrowski**—Our sincere condolences to Jo and her family on the passing of her husband, Ted, on May 21. Ted was the first male member of our garden club. Jo has not been well lately. Please pray for her health to improve.

***Vivian Krotz**—Pray for endurance as she has a continues with chemo treatments for a chronic blood cancer. The treatments are making her weak and nauseous.

***Geri Beyer**—Pray for strength and grace as she continues to deal with cancer.

***Mary Fortino**—Continues with chemo/radiation, but remains upbeat and carries her smile as always.

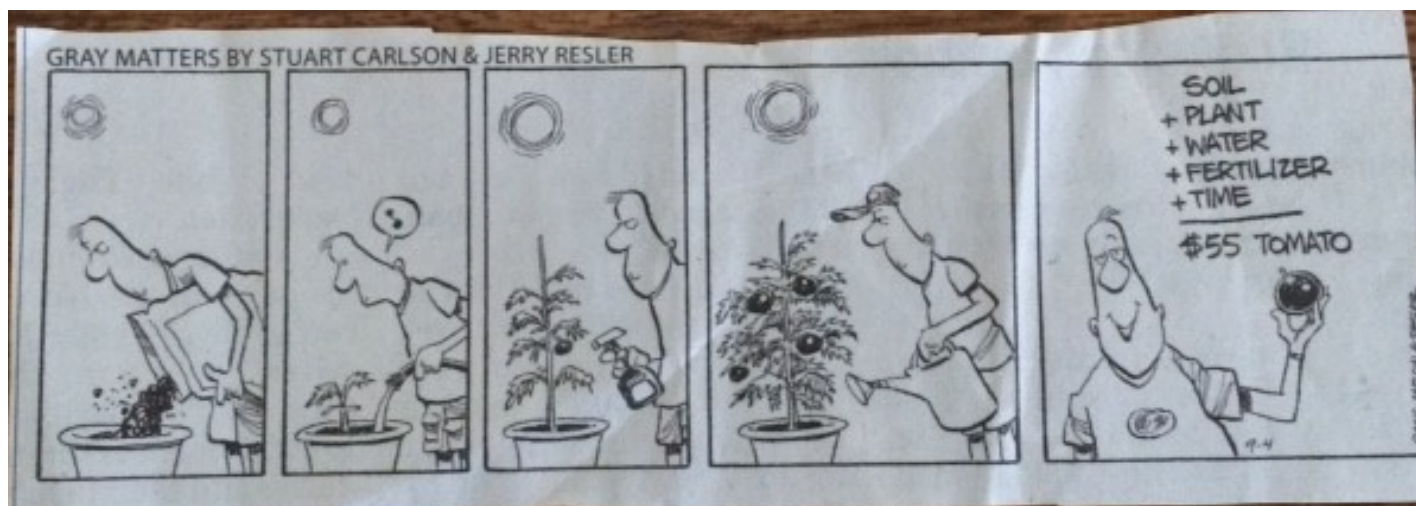


Vacationing This Summer?



Better Homes and Gardens, July 2014 had these great tips for keeping your flowers watered while you are away:

1. **Check the Forecast**—Larger pots should be fine if you'll be gone just two or three days, especially if rain is predicted. Give them a good soaking before you go. Set up a contingency plan for small pots that usually need daily watering.
2. **Group Pots**—Move portable planters and hanging baskets to a shady spot (pots dry out faster in sun) protected from drying winds, and cluster them so they benefit from the raised humidity of huddling.
3. **Hook them Up**—Purchase one or more container irrigation kits (sold at garden centers) and enough tubing to reach all your pots. Once it's set up, a drip system is the most efficient way to deliver moisture to numerous pots.
4. **Set to Auto Drip**—Use a hose faucet timer to set how often and how long you water. (Test it before you leave to determine the best plan.) Some digital systems can be operated remotely with a smartphone or computer.

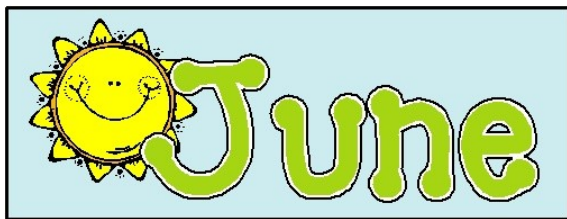


Bloomington Garden Club

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



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.

2015 Club Officers/Committees

*President.....Joyce Basel
*1st Vice President.....Marilyn Johnson
(Membership)
*2nd Vice President.....Roberta Pulido
(Programs)
Program Committee.....Maureen Gibson
Cathy Kreis
*Publicity.....Helen Price
Publicity Committee
Newsletter.....Cathy Kreis
Website.....Dan Vitacco
*Treasurer.....Henia Sullivan
Good Cheer.....Jennifer Moore
Hospitality.....Mary Fortino
*Recording Secretary.....Kelly Vitacco
*Ways & Means.....Linda Kunesh
*Corresponding
Secretary.....Joyce Basel
*Denotes Executive Board

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