

# The Trowel



Volume 3, Issue 1

## President's Prose

Dear Members and Friends,

It is horribly cold outside and the snow has started, the wind has been picking up all day and, quite honestly, I am now truly tired of this winter. Thank goodness that spring is around the corner, and we have so many exciting things happening with our Club that we will be able to forget how miserable it has been and get on with the fun of growing things!

Next week, I leave to visit with my sister Paddy in Johannesburg and although it is a long, long flight to get there (fifteen or so hours), I am really looking forward to spending a week in summertime! The temperature has hovered around 80F for the past few weeks, no humidity and just huge majestic thunderstorms in the late afternoon to cool things down. She has a beautiful garden and I will take some pictures to bring back to show to you all. And, you can count on it that I will be thinking of you!

As you all know, we have embarked on a joint venture with the Bloomingdale Parks Board, Roselle Garden Club and the Master Gardeners, for a community "giving" garden with the initial plantings as early as this summer. The gardens are in Springfield Park, next to the maintenance building where we have our plant sale, and we have made a great deal of progress already. Marilyn Johnson heads up our own club's committee for this garden and they have the energy, determination, imagination and eagerness to get it up and running. I must tell you all that I am so proud of our Club for initiating this project – it is a huge feather in our collective cap!

And, of course, our plant sale is also just around the corner! Bigger and Better than ever are the plans by Linda's committee. They put an enormous amount of time and thought and energy into this each year and, as you all know, it is a wonderfully successful event. I know that you will all turn out – as you always do – to help with everything to make it the best it can possibly be. There are a number of new and beautiful flowers – I know that you are all going to be excited to plant them.

Once planted, don't forget to take pictures and submit them to Carole and her photo contest committee – they had such fun last year selecting the winners and you will want to be included in this fun contest this year.

Please remember to include our special members with health concerns in your thoughts and prayers. They are all mentioned later in this newsletter.

Think Spring!!! It cannot be far away ...

Joyce Basel

*"A light exists in spring not present on the year at any other  
period—when March is scarcely here"*

*—Emily Dickinson*

# It's Plant Sale Time!!!

## 2015 BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB FLOWER & PLANT SALE, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 1 & 2

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

**Plastic Pots Needed:** Sizes needed – 6", 8", 10", and 12". Bring to the Potting Party.



**Perennial Potting Party, Saturday, April 18, 10 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, April 30, 4 – 9 p.m.** We'll be bringing over the perennials from Cathy's house and take all equipment to our Plant Sale 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 1, 6 a.m. to Noon.** 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 1, Noon.** We'll do our best to have all pre-sale orders pulled, set aside, and ready for pick up by noon. We will not sell to the public until all pre-sale orders are pulled and set aside.

**Plant Sale: Friday, May 1, Noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** (Possible Sale on Sunday, May 3, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) Help is needed for set-up, sales, and clean up. Contact Linda at 630-221-8684 or [kunesh310@comcast.net](mailto:kunesh310@comcast.net) to let her know WHEN you will commit to help.

**Raffles & Things for Sale:** Two large pots (one for sun; the other for shade), along with a potting bench and an original painting will be available for the raffles. Items for sale include butterfly sipping stations, leaf castings, and yard art.

**Winning Photos from Last Year's Photo Contest will be on display.**

**Gift Certificates:** Still available from Henia (847-985-8408). These make great Mother's Day, Easter, and birthday gifts. Day-of-Sale prices apply.

***YOU help make this sale a success.  
Thanks for being a part of this wonderful event!***

## Upcoming 2015 Programs

### March 17

Joel Barcak, Owner of Blumen Gardens in Sycamore, Illinois Joel will share his informative and humorous program on "Reducing Maintenance Through Good Design. Did you know that he considers the most important tool in our garden to be a measuring tape?"



### April 21

This is a very important meeting to attend. Linda Kunesh will be giving an overview of our upcoming May 1 & 2 Plant Sale. Membership will be encouraged to participate where they feel most able and qualified. There are many places to volunteer and we need you all to make our sale a success. Shari Aldous and Bonni Rothbaum will then lead us in a very fun garden art project. The glass plate sculptures will hang on a stake that can then be "planted" in our gardens. **Registration is required for the Glass Plate Garden Art. No cost to members, non-members \$5 material cost. Registration will close when the supply of kits is exhausted or April 1, whichever is reached first. Please contact Bobbi Pulido to register, 630-295-8315.**



### May 19

Laura Christensen will be presenting her program, Crazy for Containers. Whether you have limited garden space or you have a patio that needs some pizzazz, this presentation will teach you all about container gardening, from planning your color palette, to selecting containers, designing your arrangement, shopping for your materials, installing your plants and caring for your container garden. This presentation is loaded with great photos of top choices for container plants. Laura will demonstrate putting together a seasonal container that will be raffled off. If our spring is a cool one, hold off planting up your pots. Laura may provide you with a whole new perspective!

## Membership Dues

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 out around March 22. Email buddies, please print up for your buddy.

*A garden is a grand teacher.  
It teaches patience and  
careful watchfulness; it  
teaches industry and thrift;  
above all it teaches entire  
trust.  
Gertrude Jekyll*

## BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB TO PLANT AT THE DUPAGE CONVALESCENT CENTER MAY 16th

Please join us to plant annuals for the Cutting Garden at the DuPage Convalescent Center Resident Garden (400 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton) on Saturday, May 16th, 2014, 8:45 a.m. – Noon. Park in any spot designated for Visitor or Volunteer. We'll meet at the Entrance behind the Center. Bring garden gloves, a trowel, and kneeler. Please contact Linda by Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> to let her know if you will join us or if you have any questions -- 630-221-8684 (h); 630-306-7854 (c); [kunesh310@comcast.net](mailto:kunesh310@comcast.net)

# Guidelines for Perennials



## **"2015 GUIDELINES FOR PERENNIALS"**

### **BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB SPRING PLANT SALE**

We LOVE getting plants from our Garden Club Members and their friends for our Plant Sales. 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.

**Preparation for Our Plant Labels and Signs:** By April 11<sup>th</sup>, call Cathy Gall (630-980-8493) or email (preferred!) ([jocagallfam@att.net](mailto: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 email the common name, along with the botanical name if you know it. Cathy is preparing labels for the plant markers. (If you know that she already has a label on file, you can just let her know the name and how many plants you'll bring – no need for all the extra info!) She'll then contact Henia to let her know so she can make printed signs that will be posted in the group of "like plants." An example is shown below:

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.

**Perennial Plant Potting Party: Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** Cathy's House, 264 Crestwood Lane, Bloomingtondale. You may bring your plants in bags or boxes and members will help you get them potted.

**BE SURE TO CHECK A PERENNIAL BOOK OR THE INTERNET TO SEE IF THE PLANT CAN BE DIVIDED IN THE SPRING!**

**Sneak Peak at Perennials: Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 8 p.m.:** Members and friends may purchase early at Cathy's house – cash or check only.

### **IF YOU DECIDE TO DIG UP AND POT YOUR PLANTS YOURSELF, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:**

**Plan ahead. Perennials should be dug up NO LATER THAN APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> for our Sale 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", 12", etc., for potting (no plastic bags please). Call Joyce (630-327-3871) or Linda (630-221-8684) if you need pots.

***The type of plant and its condition, along with the size of the pot 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.

**Potted/labeled perennials need to be dropped off at the Bloomingtondale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Dr., Bloomingtondale, Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m. or Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 a.m.** 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.

## Great Feedback on Our Website....

Subject: After school program - thanks for the great information!

To: [bloomingdalegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingdalegardenclub@gmail.com)

Hi there,

I wanted to send you a 'thank you' for your webpage (<http://www.bloomingdalegardenclub.org/Resources>). I am a mentor for a group of students at an after school program, and one of my mentees (Lauren) found your website while searching for information about gardening. I just wanted to let you know that your information has been a big help to us!



She also found another great resource that I thought would be helpful to your visitors and that kids will like. The article is "Gardens and Grasshoppers: Kids Guide to Insects" - <http://www.syntheticgrasswarehouse.com/gardens-grasshoppers-kids-guide-insects/>

Would you mind including the article on your page for me? I thought that it would fit in well with your information, and my mentee will be happy to hear that you liked her idea! Let me know if you get the chance to update - and thanks again for the great website!

Have a great day,

-Joan

## Esther Ahlrich Submitted This Very Funny Tale

### The Flower Show

Two little old ladies, Connie & Evelyn, were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. The short one, Connie, leaned over and said, 'Life is so boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid, boring flower show!'



'You're on!' said Evelyn, holding up a \$10 bill.

So Connie slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes. She grabbed a dried flower from a nearby display and held it between her teeth. Then, completely naked, streaked through the front door. Her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. Finally, the smiling Connie came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering, clapping crowd.

'What happened?' asked Evelyn.

'I won \$1,000 as 1st prize for 'Best Dried Arrangement!'

**Bloomington Garden Club  
2015 Program Schedule**

January 20—Business Meeting

February 17

Karen Thomson—Constructing Topiaries

March 17

Joel Barczak (Blumen Gardens) - Reducing Maintenance Through Good Design

April 21

Plant Sale Preparation & Glass Plate Yard Art Craft



May 19

Laura Christensen—Crazy for Containers

June 16

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

July 21

Patricia Hill - Shade Gardening - Beyond Hosta

August 18

Dan & Sharon Peterson— Incredible Bats



September 15

Mike Nowak-Thriving in Hard Soil-Community Garden Information

October 20

Kathy Rose (Kaleidoscope of Floral Design)- 5 Seasonal Arrangements and Q & A



November 17

Christmas Centerpieces-Nursing Home Craft

December 8

Club Christmas Party



## OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE MONARCHS



### Garden Clubs of Illinois President's Project 2014-15 **MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS**

You have read many statistics about the catastrophic plummeting number of monarchs seen in Mexico, their migration site and all across Texas, the Midwest and Canada. Each of us, although we are only One, can help reverse monarch numbers and assure there will be monarchs in our future. And that is... Plant Milkweed! – the only plant that monarchs will lay their eggs on. Every member of Garden Clubs of Illinois and every GCI Club can bring back monarchs, one milkweed plant at a time, one re-seeded back road at a time with no expense or modest expense to individual or club.

Milkweed For Monarchs is being developed as a multifaceted project involving planting native swamp milkweed, (*Asclepias incarnata*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) where appropriate throughout the state.

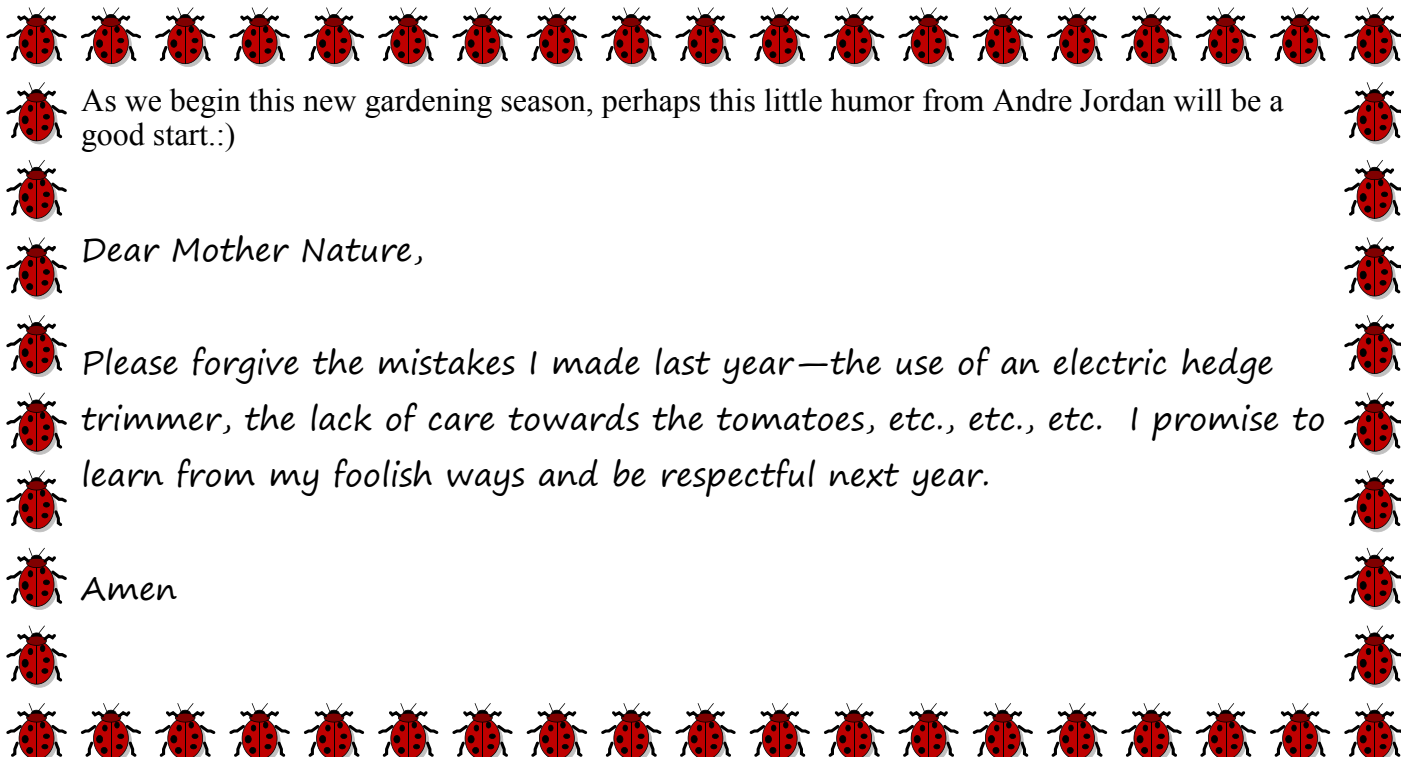
1. GCI will partner with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources to get flower seed including milkweed into any roadside restoration projects or construction being done around the state such as infields of ramps and interchanges. Operation Wildflower Chairman Barbara Bischoff Kleeman is in discussion with IDOT.
2. GCI is partnering with Ward Johnson's 501c3 charity, Save Our Monarchs Foundation from Minnesota, (PO Box 390135, Minneapolis, MN 55439) which is dedicated to giving away 350,000 swamp milkweed seed packets by 2016. Think of ways to pass out seed— you as an individual or your club: Fund raisers, Earth Day events, Arbor Day, special programs. Other organizations: Women's clubs, church groups, Girl and Boy Scouts, 4-H—all waiting to distribute and plant milkweed seed around our beautiful state. For seed packets immediately, contact [SaveOurMonarchs.org](http://SaveOurMonarchs.org). Imagine GCI and Illinois being the "poster child" for other states to emulate in helping to save monarchs.

**Plan Your Club Project!** All IL garden clubs are encouraged to collect milkweed— swamp milkweed, butterfly weed, and common milkweed.

- Garden club members will find byways in their communities and disperse seed along Osage orange hedgerows or wild areas where there will be no complaints—not near farmer's fields.
- Garden club members will collect and de-fluff the three kinds of milkweed seed. Any excess seed not needed for individual club dispersal projects should be separated by variety and sent to the GCI office or me. This seed may go to IDOT projects or may go back into the GCI Milkweed For Monarchs seed dispersal project.
- Club members who do not have access to wild seed or garden grown milkweed seeds but want to help plant milkweeds on byways or in their individual gardens may contact me by sending a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope with a dollar bill in it. I will send them a modest package of the seed of their choice with instructions. Call me if you need advice.

Kay MacNeil – GCI Milkweed for Monarchs Chairman  
689 Golf Club Lane, Frankfort, IL 60423

Phone: 815-469-1294  
Email: [kaymac60423@yahoo.com](mailto:kaymac60423@yahoo.com)



As we begin this new gardening season, perhaps this little humor from Andre Jordan will be a good start.:)

Dear Mother Nature,

Please forgive the mistakes I made last year—the use of an electric hedge trimmer, the lack of care towards the tomatoes, etc., etc., etc. I promise to learn from my foolish ways and be respectful next year.

Amen

## Christmas Gifts for Stepping Stones



Here's a photo of the Christmas gifts that were purchased from the donations gathered at our December Christmas Party for the Stepping Stones' families. The recipients of these gifts were most overwhelmed with your generosity.

## For All You Vegetable Gardeners....

*Jerry Baker has a tip to protect all those little seeds from getting gobbled up by the birds. Lay an old window screen on top of them. Now, why didn't we think of that?*



## Community Garden Garage Sale

Our membership has overwhelmingly shown their support for a Community Vegetable Garden by granting the committee \$200 to spend this year. We have a pre-order for the plant sale of \$123 which leaves us \$77 to fund the rest of our project.

Kathryn Kacalo has graciously offered her services to run a garage sale at her home sometime in April (date is weather dependent) to benefit the garden. We need items to sell! We are asking all members to donate ONE box of garage sale items (no clothes). Remember this is a donation. Unsold items will be donated to DuPage County Convalescent Center for their annual fall garage sale. No unsold items will be returned. You may price your items or Kathryn will price for you.

Kathryn will start accepting donations, dropped off at her house, beginning March 16-March 20. If she is not home, leave by her front door. For any large items, please contact Kathryn to make arrangements.

Knowing that this could be a success, we might be able to fund the project completely through this garage sale!

Kathryn Kacalo, 148 Cambridge Ln, Bloomingdale, 630-894-0472

### Planting a Healing Garden

Peter Setter shares his ideas on creating our own personal escape. Shared in the November 2014 issue of Bird and Blooms.

#### 7 Tips to Create Your Own Healing Garden

1. Provide comfortable seating for a quiet place to sit and contemplate.
2. Make sure shade is available by adding screens, trellises or large plants.
3. Create a water feature. Still water provided a setting for meditation, while the sound and sight of moving water can be restorative.
4. Add a splash of color to your garden, which will provide a visual stimulus. Warm colors enliven the emotions and promote activity, while cool colors tend to be soothing.
5. Engage your sense of smell by adding fragrant plants alongside garden seating and paths.
6. Add texture to your garden by choosing plants that are durable enough to withstand frequent brushing or handling.
7. Sound expands the garden experience. Cultivate plants that rustle in even a light breeze.

Wow, I'm ready to get started. I have an area that has moved out of a "sunny" spot and needs changing up anyway. It has a bench that looks exactly like the photo above and a small pond already. I am now inspired!



## Good Cheer—Member Concerns

\***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.

\***Jo Dabrowski**—Has not been well lately. Please pray for her health to improve.

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

\***Rick Zarek (aka Moose)** reports that he is feeling much better and that he has resumed his school bus driving. He is looking forward to helping us out at our Plant Sale in May



## Some TV Viewing Ideas to Chase Away The Winter Blahs...

Becks, from the Berkeley Garden Club sent Joyce some gardening TV programs to check out.

*I wanted to share the TV shows I watch pertaining to gardening, On Saturday mornings starting at 10:30, there is a string of shows I enjoy.*

*Starting with **Midwest Gardeners show**. This show is done by master gardeners and teachers at the University of Illinois and is a great show since it deals with gardening issues specifically for our area. They take emails and calls from viewers to answer questions.*

*Next two shows are **Garden Smart** and **The Victory Garden**. These shows visit gardens all around the country and discuss gardening styles, designs and techniques.*

*Fourth show is **P. Allen Smith**. He is a master gardener and designer from Georgia. His show discusses ways to blend indoors and outdoors by gardening and bringing in design elements from outdoors to inside. Very informative.*



*The last show I would like to mention, and my personal favorite, **Growing a Greener World**. This covers all sorts of topics for the home gardener and is truly a fantastic show. Lots of tips and how to's in this show. I watched two this morning. One on mason bees and one on composting.*

*So if your getting the winter blahs, tune into these shows to get your gardening juices flowing or set your DVR and watch them when you have time like I do.*

*Enjoy the day!!      Becks*

Channel Information Growing a Greener World is on Sundays. 10:00 - 10:30am on WTTW channel 369. All the other shows are on WYCC, channel 20 & 240. Those shows start @10:30 and go till 12:30 on Saturday mornings. All these channels are Comcast channels.

## 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.

## 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

*“There are no gardening  
mistakes, only experiments.”*

—Janet Kilburn Phillips