

The Trowel



Volume 6 , Issue 1

Greetings Members and Friends,

Meteorological spring has arrived...and activity is flourishing in my yard! The feeders are full and the returning spring fowl and fauna are so fun to watch. The Robins, they scurry across the lawn at full speed, stop quickly, tilt their heads & select their lunch. At the feeders, the Cardinals in their red regal glory...the Chickadees politely waiting their turn for a spot. The Finches, taking turns, as I begin to see the hint of color change from the drab olive of winter to the brilliant yellow for the season. Of course, you know it's spring when the Red Wing Black birds show up and eat you out of house and home almost every day! A pair of hawks performing a graceful dance in the sky. And, an unexpected, but very welcome visit from a pair of Blue jays! Boy, you forget how big the Blues are until they are sitting right outside your window! I hope you are all enjoying the great emergence of Spring.

If you missed the January business meeting and elections or the subsequent garden club email, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the incoming (returning) / outgoing Board members. We wish those incoming a very successful term and a big 'Thank you' to the outgoing. We recognize all the hard work ahead and the contributions for the past two years:

Incoming: Cathy Kreis - Recording Secretary

Joyce Basel - Membership

Linda Kunesh - Ways and Means

Outgoing: Joyce Boryla - Recording Secretary

Jennifer Moore - Membership (Jennifer will remain as Good Cheer!)

While my winter containers still have a lot of interest & provide shelter for the birds, my mind is already designing containers and landscape colors for Spring and Summer. It's almost that time folks... Our biggest event of the year. For several weeks now, I've been pouring over plant catalogs and thinking about our up coming plant sale in May. We had a record year in 2017 and now comes the challenge. Can we do it again, no, not again...but better than last year? I think so! Henia has already sent out well over 400 mailings for plant availability and pre-orders. Great effort and kudos to all! It's the Plant Sale Committee members under Linda K.'s long time guidance and garden team members like you that help to make it all possible. I do hope you'll consider being active in the sale this year. I know I'm looking forward to it!

As you look through that catalog or watch a flower bloom, let us be reminded of our dear members that, due to illness, won't be able to participate this year and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Watching our gardens grow is always a great joy. I wish you much joy this coming year. Happy Spring!

Laura Sewall, President

"Spring is far more than just a changing of the seasons: it is the rebirth of the spirit." —Toni Sorenson

Winter Meetings

January — The membership gathered for our Annual Business Meeting. We also finalized our distribution of our 2017 philanthropic dollars. Details are available in the minutes from the meeting.

February—Dr. Erin Ducat, a Bloomingdale chiropractor and exercise specialist showed us how most gardening injuries occur, what to watch out for and how we can reduce our risk. By the looks of the wonderful handout she gave everyone, I'm so sorry to have missed this meeting!



Upcoming 2018 Programs

March 20

Nancy Carroll

The Love of Hummingbirds

April 17

Plant Sale Preparation

May 15

Nancy Carroll

Summer-Fun

Secrets from the Garden

June 19

Alyse Cohen Burman

Attracting Migratory Birds to
Your Yard in All Seasons

Meeting Reminders:

We start with a social time at 6:15 PM, followed by a business meeting. Programs will begin at approximately 7:00-7:15 PM.

Our collection of paper goods for the Bloomingdale Township Pantry is on-going. Bring your items to the meeting.

2017 Charitable Donations

Discussion and vote was held at the January 16 Annual Meeting. Here are the recipients of our charitable donations.

Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry - \$500.00

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets - \$1000.00

Bloomingdale VFW Post 7539 - \$750.00

DuPage Pads - \$750.00

Peoples Resource Center - \$1000.00

Stepping Stones - \$750.00

Humanitarian Service Project - \$350.00

St Paul Evangelical Church - \$500.00

Boryla Family - \$500.00

DuPage Convalescent Center (non-cash) - \$400 in
Plants/Flowers

Total Disbursed \$6,500.00

“2018 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 Plant Labels and Signs: By **April 14th**, email Cathy Gall at jocgallfam@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:

Quantity: 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 21st 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building (the site of the plant sale - North end of Springfield Dr. between Schick Road and Lake Street). You may bring your plants in bags or boxes and members will help you get them potted. If you have any pots or hanging baskets, please bring them! This is a great time to accept or trade perennials with other club members. Just remember though, that once the plants are “potted” they belong to the club and can only be purchased.

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: Thursday, May 3rd from 5 to 7 p.m.: We will offer the perennials for sale to club members and their friends/family. Cash, checks and credits cards accepted.

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

Plan ahead. Perennials should be dug up and potted NO LATER THAN APRIL 21ST This will 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).

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.’) The plants 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 Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Dr., Bloomingdale, Thursday, May 3rd 5-6 p.m. or Friday May 4th 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.

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 630-247-8493 or Linda at 630-221-8684.

2018 BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB FLOWER & PLANT SALE
FRIDAY and SATURDAY, MAY 4 & 5

Spring will be blooming with the arrival of beautiful flowers from our vendor, Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse, our professional grower in Grant Park, IL. We'll also have perennials from members' gardens. **Club member help is needed for MANY things!**

NOTE: ALL activities will take place at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Dr., Bloomingdale. (north end of Springfield Park)

Perennial Potting Party, Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Rain or Shine).

Bring your perennials with information attached and we'll help get them potted. Also bring a snack to share, your favorite beverage, and any empty plastic pots you may have. Sizes needed: 6", 8", 10", 12". See "2018 Guidelines for Perennials" in this newsletter for additional information.

Drop-off of Wagons, Carts, & Equipment, Wednesday, May 2, 1 p.m.

Plant Sale Prep, Thursday, May 3, 8 a.m. – 11a.m. Tables, table cloths, and signage will be set up.

Flower Delivery, Inventory, Staging, & Setting Aside Pre-Sale Orders: Thursday, May 3, 11:30 a.m. -- 5 p.m. We need a LOT of help unloading the flowers; completing the inventory; staging the flats, cases, and baskets of flowers & plants; and pulling and setting aside Pre-Sale Orders. Bring your family members, friends, and neighbors to help.

Sneak Peak at Perennials, Thursday, May 3, 5 -- 7 p.m. Members & friends may purchase early. (Cash, check, or credit cards accepted)

Picking Up Pre-Sale Orders, Thursday, May 3, 5 -- 7 p.m. You also may shop for additional plants! (Cash, check, or credit cards accepted)

Flower & Plant Sale: Friday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Help is needed for set-up, sales, and clean up. Contact Linda at 630-221-8684 (home), 630-306-7854 (cell), or kunesh310@comcast.net to let her know WHEN you will commit to help.

Raffles: Two large pots (one for sun; the other for shade), will be available for the raffles.

Master Gardener Help Desk will be available throughout the Sale.

Winning Photos from Last Year's Photo Contest will be on display, along with guidelines for submitting entries for 2018.

Gift Certificates: Gift Certificates in any denomination are still available. Recipients of the gift certificates may redeem them at our Sale. These make great Mother's Day, Easter, and birthday gifts and are suitable to mark any occasion/event. Day-of-Sale prices apply. To order gift certificates, send a note with legible name/address and a check made payable to:

**Bloomingdale Garden Club
c/o Henrietta Sullivan
1015 Tiverton Court
Schaumburg, IL 60193**

***It takes our ENTIRE Garden Club to make this Sale a success.
Thanks for being a part of this wonderful event!***

BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB TO PLANT AT THE DUPAGE CARE CENTER MAY 19th, 2018

Please join us to plant flowers at the DuPage Care Center Resident Garden (400 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton) on Saturday, May 19th, 2018, 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. Garden benches will be available for those who cannot kneel. Please contact Linda by Wednesday, May 16th 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



Plot to Plate 2018



The Plot-to-Plate Committee has met to start planning the garden for the 2018 growing season. We will be keeping the same general layout and rotating our crops. Many of our crops will be the same but we will be trying a few new things. Cool season crops will be planted in late April (weather permitting) and the rest of the garden will be planted in late May.

We will once again be asking club members to help with watering and weeding on a weekly basis. We look forward to another productive year to benefit the clients at the Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry.

Gail Sanders

Leave Your Garden Clogs at the Door!

Garden clogs are wonderful outside, but it's amazing the way that they carry mud inside. Pound 1 inch diameter dowel rods into the ground beside your door. When you are ready to go in, slip off your clogs and hang them toes-up on the dowels to keep them dry inside. When you are ready to garden again, your clogs are right outside the door waiting for you!



Elaine Cooper,
Garden Gate Magazine

Edibles for Shady Spots

You don't necessarily need full sun to grow wonderful veggies.

1. Lettuce—4 Hours a Day
2. Spinach—4 Hours a Day
3. Bush Beans—6 Hours a Day
4. Scallions—4-6 Hours a Day
5. Hakurei Turnips—4-6 Hours a Day
6. Arugula—2-3 Hours a Day
7. Spring Radishes—4-6 Hours a Day
8. Kale—4 Hours a Day
9. Herbs—2-4 Hours a Day (Cilantro, parsley, lemon balm, chives and mint.
10. Swiss Chard—4 Hours a Day



Birds and Blooms Extra, March 2018

Backyard Resolutions

This article in the January 2018 Birds and Blooms Extra just struck me and I think we all need these encouraging ideas.

5 Growing-Season goals for every home gardener to embrace in 2018

1. **I will garden for birds, bees and butterflies (bats, too!).** One of the greatest benefits of a garden is the beautiful creatures that visit. Plan your flowers and vegetables with that in mind. Remember, a pollinator-friendly garden is good for the earth, your garden and you!
2. **I will not blame myself for gardening failures.** Mother Nature often is not your friend when it comes to growing. Or life gets in the way. Don't despair—simply try again and learn from the experience. After all, your garden is extremely forgiving.
3. **I will not be afraid to ask questions.** Take advantage of the experience that your neighbors, friends, family and local garden center employees have to offer. If they're typical garden fanatics, they'll appreciate your interest and be flattered that you want to learn from them.
4. **I will share my passion.** Studies show that many of today's gardeners got their start by learning from someone else, such as a parent or grandparent. Mentor a new gardener and share your expertise. Be the reason your son or daughter serves home-grown vegetables to your grandchildren. Be the reason your neighbor plants window boxes for the first time.
5. **I will try something new.** You may think this is a no-brainer—gardeners are always after new plants, veggies or tools. But go beyond that and think really new, like a growing style that's out of the your comfort zone or a completely different crop of vegetables.

Young at Heart Gardeners

Crystal Rennie shared her lovely thoughts on the benefits of gardening as we age. Taken from Birds and Blooms, January 2014.

The longer you garden, the more you realize how much it benefits your body, mind and soul. Here are some ways gardening keeps us healthy later in life:

Improve Mobility, Strength and Endurance. Low-impact exercises like digging, weeding and planting strengthen muscles and are perfect for those who can't participate in vigorous activity. Also, gardening uses many muscles groups as well as promoting hand strength, joint flexibility and improved motor skills.

Reduce Health Risks. Gardeners have a lower risk of osteoporosis and diabetes. Simply spending time in a natural setting can lower blood pressure and relieve muscle tension.

Keep Your Heart Healthy. Research has proved that light physical activity significantly lowers the risk of heart disease.

Get a Daily Dose of Vitamin D. Vitamin D, obtained through exposure to sunlight, protects against health problems like osteoporosis, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Promote Social Interaction. Get to know your neighbors while you tend your garden. Gardening is a bond that many people share and can help the elderly become more involved with other members of the community.

Battle Alzheimer's Disease. Gardening helps those with Alzheimer's and other kinds of dementia by providing a safe and stimulating environment. The sensory stimulation can also help evoke memories.

It doesn't matter what stage of life you're in; gardening is one activity that has endless benefits. So what are you waiting for? It's never too early or late to start living a healthier life.

Good Cheer-Member Concerns

Remember our Shut-Ins with a phone call, note or a visit: George Holtz, Jane Czyzewski and Vivian Krotz.

Marilyn Dattilo is recovering nicely from her double hip replacement. Keep moving Marilyn!

Joyce Boryla

Joyce is home with medical equipment and caregivers. Because of her situation, she cannot get to the phone, so please no calls or visits.

Cards can be sent to her at: 327 Whitehall Terrace, Bloomingdale, IL 60108-1384. Please keep Joyce and Joe in your thoughts and prayers.

****I count on you the members to be the eyes and ears. Do not assume the I or others know of problems. We are not gossips but caring friends. Keep each other aware and help where you are able.**

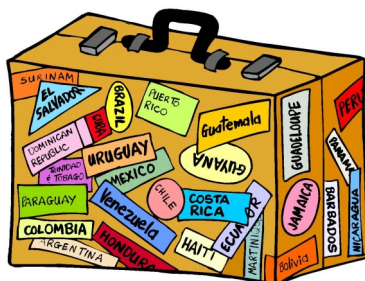
Thank you! Jennifer Moore, Good Cheer
630-980-8223/Jaye408@gmail.com

*The naked earth is warm with
spring, and with green grass
and bursting trees, leans to the
sun's kiss glorying, and quivers
in the sunny breeze.*

—Julian Grenfell

Travel Corner

Travel Corner Reminder.....Grandparents traveling with grandchildren....an important reminder!



For safe and secure travel while indulging those very special grandchildren, or nieces, or nephews....remember to have an original letter notarized allowing you to take the children out of State or Country, and also allowing

the traveling adult to supervise and permit any emergency medical needs that the child might encounter. It is important to have the original letter to present to the tour operator, or the cruise line....and a copy should also be maintained by the adult traveling with the child at all times.

Some cruise lines or tour operators will have their own forms to be filled out...and this should be done prior to final payment being put on a cruise or vacation package.

Aside from the above valued paperwork, insurance for a vacation is always going to seem expensive, until you need to use it! Remember - we make plans, and God Smiles!

Allianz Travel Insurance is affordable.....and covers even non-refundable airline tickets! Plus giving you many more options for coverage at a very reasonable rate.

That's it from Travel Techniques - Marilyn Dattillo
ATA 14-535894
Phone 630-671-0750
traveltech@att.net



Bloomington Garden Club

Meeting Location:
St. Paul Evangelical Church
118 S First Street
Bloomington IL 60108

Newsletter Published by Catherine Kreis
Email: cathyjk@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 630-351-9336

We're on the Web!

www.bloomingtongardenclub.org

2018 Club Officers/Committees

*President.....Laura Sewall
*1st Vice President.....Joyce Basel
(Membership)
Membership Committee.....Henia Sullivan
*2nd Vice President.....Mary Sue Fornari
(Programs)
Program Committee...Linda Martin, Sandy Kappeler
*Publicity.....Akhila Meda
Publicity Committee
 Newsletter.....Cathy Kreis
 Website.....Dan Vitacco
*Treasurer.....Cheryl Svec
Good Cheer.....Jennifer Moore
Hospitality.....Chris Magnatowski
Hospitality Committee.. Kelly Vitacco, Akhila Meda
*Recording Secretary.....Cathy Kreis
*Ways & Means.....Linda Kunesh
*Corresponding
Secretary.....Joyce Basel
Plot-To-Plate.....Gail Sanders
Photo Contest.....Carole Lockerbie
Memorial Garden.....Joyce Basel
Farmer's Market.....Carole Lockerbie
*Denotes Executive Board

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.

Visitors are always welcome, but we encourage them to join the club after 3 visits in order to help out with the costs of our monthly programming.



*No kind action ever stops with itself.
One kind action leads to another. Good
example is followed. A single act of
kindness throws out roots in all
directions, and the roots spring up and
make new trees. The greatest work that
kindness does to others is that it makes
them kind themselves.*

Amelia Earhart