



# The Trowel

Volume 2, Issue 3

## President's Prose

Hello dear Members and Friends,

I just do not know where summer went ... it seems like yesterday that I wrote looking forward to it and now it is winding down already. I hope that you have all enjoyed your gardens this year – mine has certainly grown wonderfully with all the nice rain and somewhat cooler temperatures. (And how the weeds have loved it too!!!)

As many of you know, I took a little time this year to hop over to Stockholm, Sweden, to visit with an old friend, Lisa. They were having a heatwave while I was there with temperatures in the 90's most days – it was very hot indeed. And, the Swedes are mostly fair haired and very light skinned people, so you can imagine the cases of sunburn! The beaches were overcrowded ... it seemed that every single stretch of sand or rock was covered with bikini-clad bodies! My friend lives on a large island near the King's palace and so I had some wonderful sightseeing. One of the days we went by ferry from the Palace to the center of the city and the old inner city is truly historic and beautiful. We lunched in one of the gardens and in the evening had sundowners on the water before returning. It is not my first time to Sweden, but the first in summer and I loved it. The gardens were beautiful and even in the heat the flowers lovely. I thought about you all one of the days when we visited a local nursery!



On the home front, your Committee for the Memorial Garden was busy and the Board has approved getting the Memorial stone etc. Marilyn has written more about this elsewhere and I hope that you will all consider being part of this important project.

Some of us tried making concrete leaf bird baths and little planters recently – it was fun and even if they are not professional looking, we enjoyed the experience and have a few that will be on sale at the plant sale next year. Look out for these unusual items!! ( A couple photos are on page 7)

As we move towards Fall and Halloween and Thanksgiving, I hope that you all stay well and happy and I look forward to seeing you at the meetings !

Joyce Basel

Historic Stockholm From the Ferry



*Let us be thankful for the people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.*

*Marcel Proust*

## Upcoming Programs

### September 16

Nancy Bell from the U of I Extension-Viva les Vines

Maximize your garden space by growing up. Learn all about vines, the support structures they need and some of the best perennial and annual vines for our growing area.

### October 21

Don White—Growing Your First Orchid Successfully

Don wants everyone to be a successful orchid grower. He will stress the proper lighting conditions, watering and repotting techniques. He will also correct orchid fallacies.

### November 4

Nursing Home Christmas Centerpiece

We don't have any firm ideas yet. If anyone has any quick and easy ideas, please give Bobbi, Maureen or Cathy a call. No glass or candles can be used.

### December 2

A Personal Christmas Project

Again, nothing firm as of this writing. Watch for further information as we get closer to the date.

## Backyard Tips from Birds & Blooms....

- Remember, if you want to grow garlic, plant it at the end of summer or in early fall for a harvest next summer. (It is so easy and worth it—fabulous taste!)
- Even if you haven't had luck attracting hummingbirds this summer, don't give up. Juveniles will be looking for a place to eat, so you could attract visitors at any time.
- Don't deadhead coneflower, sunflowers and native thistles. Goldfinches love the seeds!
- Use a pumpkin as a container. It makes a lovely resting place for a pot of mums. Instead of filling the pumpkin with dirt, just drop in the plastic container.



## Congratulations to Ernie and Bobbi Pulido who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently.

A surprise gathering was held at Jameson's September 3. I sure think Ernie was surprised. Here are some wonderful photos of the evening!



## Recent Program Highlights

### June—A Garden Party

Approximately 40 members/guests came for a lovely evening in my garden. Many participated in a painting project that the club gave to Georgette West. Thank you to those who helped me set up and clean up! We would love to have this type of meeting every summer, so think about sharing your garden with us next year!

### July—All About Herbs

Sandy Perakis from Platt Hill treated us to a lively and informative discussion about all things herbs! She encouraged us to use our herbs, snipping often and in the morning when their essential oils are the strongest. Sandy also donated many herbs plants to those present.

### August—Microclimates

Cindy Tyley shared her knowledge of those special areas around our homes and gardens where we might be able to push our planting zone recommendations.

## Members in the News...

We received an email from Rick Zarek (aka Moose) in late July. (Abridged version)

Hi friends,

Well, this coming Friday, August 1 is my last day working for the Bloomingdale Post Office. The folks I will miss the most, other than some of my co-workers, is you, the great customers and friends. It has been a pleasure knowing you and talking with you over the years. I have been in training to be a part-time School Bus Driver for the past 4 weeks. Hopefully that will work out.

There are some Tomato plants that came up on their own from last year's seeds on both islands at the Post Office. Please help yourself! I have some projects at home to do and I still practice playing my concertina.

I want to thank you for your friendship throughout the years. Please keep in touch! My cell number is 708-712-1246, home number is 708-547-1246.

Blessings to All,

Rick (Rick's email is polkarick@sbcglobal.net)

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Geri Beyer was treated to a surprise birthday party at Manor Care. Looks like her spirits were uplifted by her friends.

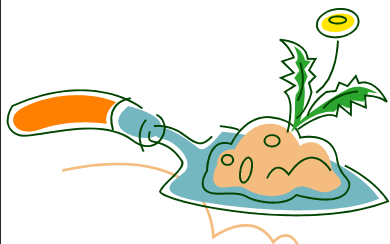
L-R: Henia Sullivan, Mary Fortino, George Holtz, Helen Price, Kathryn Kacalo, Geri Beyer, Linda Kunesh, Maureen Gibson, Esther Ahlrich and Marilyn Johnson



## Weeds, Weeds, Weeds!

From Linda Kunesh

I recently had the pleasure of attending an informal gathering of Master Gardeners to visit with Richard Hentschel, Horticulture Educator at the U of I Extension Services. Here's what he had to say about all those weeds this year:



*The drought of 2012 allowed weeds to become more competitive and established in flower beds and lawns and set a lot of seed in the process. This occurred throughout our region and has continued into 2014. It is best to tackle those weeds NOW while they are young, rather than wait till next year. If you can't dig out the weeds, be sure to at least remove all seed heads and dispose of them in a landscape waste bag (do not compost). Next year, start early and do not let them get established. While it's not usually recommended that you use herbicides around your flowers, some of the weeds this year are so prevalent and numerous, you may need to consider using a product containing glyphosate as a non selective trans-locatable treatment. Follow all package directions carefully so you do not harm your ornamentals.*

## Mark Your Calendars

Christmas Party  
December 9  
Jameson's



Details will follow

*"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers."*  
Claude Monet

## Zapple Bars—Linda Kunesh

(a great way to use those giant zucchini - everyone will think that they are eating apples)

5 1/2 cups peeled and diced zucchini (be sure to omit any seeds or pulp)

1/2 cup lemon juice

2/3 cup light brown sugar

1/4 tsp ground nutmeg

1 tsp ground cinnamon

In a non-reactive saucepan combine zucchini and lemon juice. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat and simmer until tender, about 10 minutes. Add brown sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Simmer stirring 1 - 2 minutes until slightly thickened. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Butter a 9" x 13" pan.

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 c. unsalted butter, cut into pieces

1 1/4 cups sugar

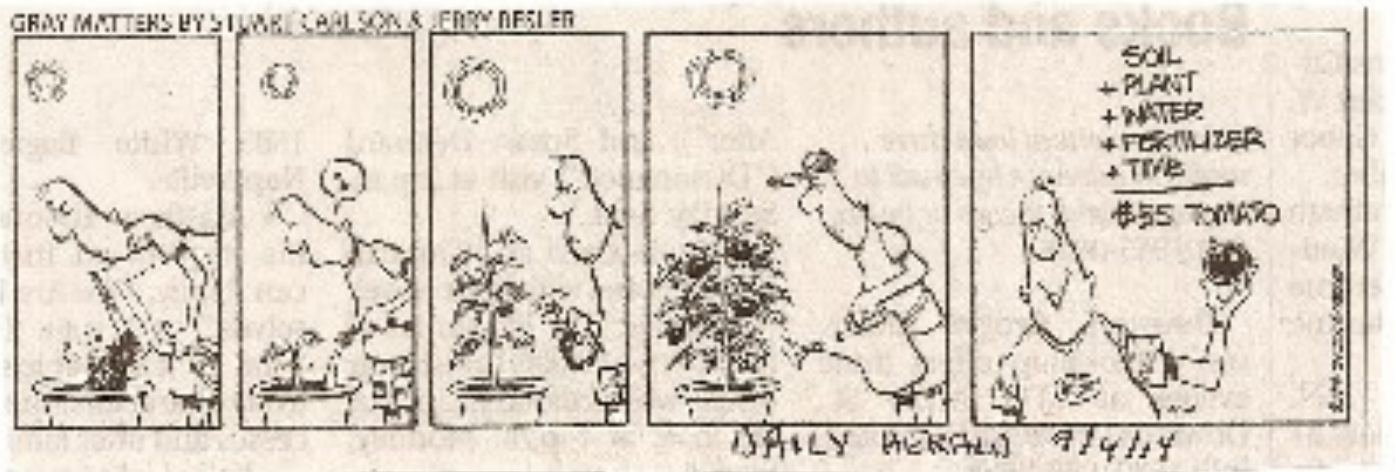
1 tsp vanilla extract

1/2 tsp salt

Combine flour, sugar, and salt. Add butter and cut in until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. (can be done in a food processor but I just use a pastry blender). Mix in vanilla. Press half of mixture into bottom of pan. Bake 10 minutes. Spread zucchini mixture over crust. Evenly distribute remaining flour mixture on top of zucchini. Bake 35 - 40 minutes, until golden brown. Cool completely before cutting.

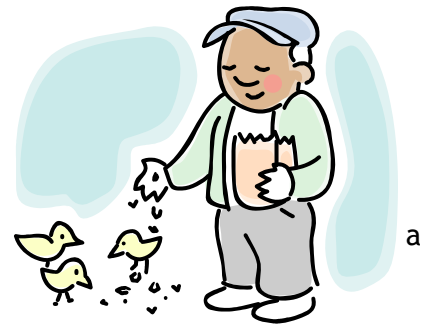


## How True This Is—Can't Beat the Taste Though!!!



### 10 Things You Aren't Feeding Your Birds Yet (Birds & Blooms September 2014)

1. Peanut Butter- Just smear it on tree bark.
2. Jelly-Grape is best. Put it in any shallow container, even an empty orange half.
3. Fruit-orange halves, berries and raisins.
4. Mealworms-feed them a dozen or so at a time. Container must be couple of inches deep or they will crawl out!
5. Roasted Seeds-pumpkin or squash. Make some for yourself and then some for the birds.
6. Baked Egg Shells-must be scrubbed and baked to remove pathogens. Crush and add to seeds or sprinkle on the ground.
7. Compost-some larger birds like to poke around in the food scraps.
8. Stale Nuts- do watch salt content, shake off excess in a brown paper bags.
9. Plants-garden for your birds! Plant flowers and leave their seed heads for the winter.
10. Suet Creations-many recipes out there to try. Some cooked, some not.



Morning Glories

From Irene Jones's garden (left)  
and Helen Price's garden (right)

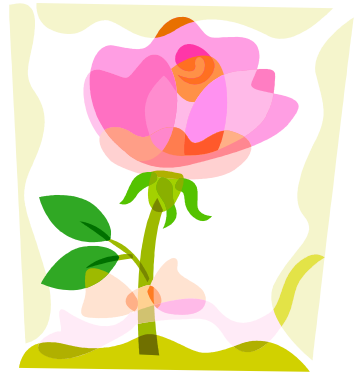



## 2015 Flower & Plant Sale Planning Underway

Be sure to mark your calendar for May 1 & 2, 2015, the dates of our annual Flower & Plant Sale. Once again, the Sale will be held at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building at 259 Springfield Drive, Bloomingdale. We hope to build on our success over the past few years.

Please contact Linda Kunesh by the end of October to let her know which flowers you purchased that did extremely well and those that were not so great. This will help the Plant Sale Committee to determine what to order for next year.

Gift Certificates are available NOW. They make great Christmas or birthday presents or to mark any occasion. Recipients may use them for pre-sale ordering (which will be available in February) or for day-of-sale purchases. To obtain a gift certificate, send a check in any amount made payable to Bloomingdale Garden Club to Henia Sullivan, 1015 Tiverton Ct., Schaumburg, IL 60193.





Join us at the Rock Bottom in Warrenville for a

*Dine Out and Help Out Event*

for **The DuPage Convalescent Center Foundation**


**Tuesday, September 23rd from 6pm-9pm**

**Just bring in this flyer, present it to your server and**  
**20% of ALL FOOD & DRINKS PURCHASED, either dine-in or take-out,**  
**will be donated to the DuPage Convalescent Center Foundation!**  
**(Excludes Happy Hour and Late Night Menu pricing)**

**All proceeds will benefit the DPCCF**

**This is a Rock Bottom Foundation Event**

**Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery • 28256 Diehl Rd • Warrenville, IL 60555**  
**(630) 836-1380 [www.rockbottom.com](http://www.rockbottom.com)**



Hope you'll join us at Rock Bottom in Warrenville for the Dine Out Help Out Fundraiser to raise funds for the DuPage Convalescent Center Foundation. If you join us at Rock Bottom, you'll need to print the coupon above and bring it with you to the restaurant. I'm (Linda Kunesh) definitely going and am happy to drive and car-pool from my house, 310 Arapahoe Trail, Carol Stream.

## Need some ideas for those empty flower pots when the flowers are gone?

Jerry Baker's booklet, "Don't Dare Throw It Out!" offers a few ideas:

1. Use all sorts of old flower pots to organize your gardening hand tools.
2. Clean out plastic flower pots, and place them under your bathroom sink to organized items such as brushes and combs, q-tips and sponges.
3. Clean up on old pot and use it to present a garden-theme housewarming gift. Fill it with seeds, garden gloves, a hand-tool, and the like. Tie it up with a big ribbon.



## One Person's Weeds is Another Person's Flowers!



### 2015 Chicago Flower & Garden Show

**Tickets for the 2015 Show are on sale now!**

**Saturday, March 14-Sunday, March 22**

**Sunday-Wednesday: 10am-6pm, Thursday-Saturday: 10am-8pm**

**Purchase online before March 14, 2015 and save \$2 off the box office price with no service fees!**



The 2015 Chicago Flower & Garden Show, presented by Mariano's, continues to celebrate "Do Green, Do Good." through inspiration, education and motivation. Gardening enthusiasts will be treated to the sights, scents and sounds of blooming perennials, annuals and trees while water features rustle throughout the festival hall of Chicago's acclaimed Navy Pier.

For more information, please visit the website at [www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com)

Esther Ahlrich, Marilyn Johnson, Shari Aldous, Bonni Rothbaum and Jan Hanson  
trying their hands at making leaf castings.



## Membership Updates

Our membership continues to grow. We now have 62 members, which includes a couple of husbands that probably don't know that they have joined. Unfortunately, we have lost two great members this year, Wanda Malek and our sweet Bert West. Welcome to all those who are new. Watch for a separate email/mailling for an updated membership list.

## Did You Plant Elephant Ears This Summer?

They need protection from freezing temperatures. Better Homes and Gardens (August 2014) recommends that you dig up bulbs before the first frost and cut off foliage. Remove soils from roots, then set labeled clumps in a dry, cool place to cure for a week or so. Next, place bulbs in a cardboard box filled with dry peat moss. Store in a cool area that stays above freezing, such as an attached garage.

## Photo Contest Information

Photos of flowers/plants purchased at the 2014 plant sale are eligible to be entered in the contest. First, second and third place will be awarded. Winners will receive gift certificates to be redeemed at the 2015 Plant Sale.

After the June 8 meeting of the photo committee, it was decided entrants may now submit digital photos of the plants purchased at the 2014 Garden Club plant sale. Digital photos should be submitted to - [georgeholtz75@gmail.com](mailto:georgeholtz75@gmail.com). Please mail photo entries (4 x 6) to Bloomingdale Garden Club Photo Contest, 326 Whitehall Terrace, Bloomingdale 60108. Label back of each photo with name, address, and photo category. All photos become the property of Bloomingdale Garden Club and may be used for promotional purposes.

Categories are:

- Potted annuals - single containers, groups of containers or unusual containers.
- Perennial garden - sun or shade.
- Annual garden - sun or shade.

Photos will be judged on composition, color and /or variety.

Photos must be submitted by October 31, 2014.

Winners will be notified by phone in November.

Winning photos will be displayed at the 2015 Spring Plant Sale.

All photos become the property of Bloomingdale Garden Club and may be used for promotional purposes.



## Memorial Garden Update

Fellow Club Members..



As many of you know, the Bloomingdale Garden Club and the Bloomingdale Park District (thanks to Joe Potts and Carrie Fullerton), have developed strong ties over the past couple of years. The latest partnership with the Park District is a Memorial Garden at Old Town Park, 111 Third Street, Bloomingdale, IL. The garden has been planted with many perennials and annuals by the Memorial Garden Committee (Joyce Basel, Shari Aldous, Bonni Rothbaum, Kelly Vitacco, George Holtz and Kathryn Kacalo).

The final step in this process is signage for the garden. The committee submitted two proposals to the Garden Club Executive Board who approved plans for a large stone that will be engraved. The goal is to dedicate the garden yet this fall. The Garden Club does have the resources to pay for this project, but several members have suggested that we offer the opportunity to any of us who would care to make a one-time monetary donation to defray some of the cost, so we still can be as philanthropic as in years past. For those of you who are new to our club, we don't often seek additional monies to benefit our club.

So to conclude this portion of the update for the Memorial Garden, if you would like to make a one-time donation, please send your check, payable to the Bloomingdale Garden Club and mail it to Henrietta Sullivan, 1015 Tiverton Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193-3462. Please let her know if this donation is in memory of someone, or a living tribute to someone special. All donations will be acknowledged in "The Trowel". Monetary amounts will not be disclosed.

The second, fun part, is the committee would like to put a small "quote" on the stone, preferably a garden related quote. Please email your quote to be considered. Pretty sure there will be a prize involved....just saying....

Marilyn Johnson  
Vice President

## Good Cheer—Member Concerns

**\*Marian Jonas** is now living in a nursing home. I know she would love a card or phone call.  
Geneva Nursing Home & Rehabilitation 630-397-5426  
1101 E State St  
Geneva IL 60134

**\*Bert West** lost his battle with Pulmonary Fibrosis on June 13. A memorial service was held in July that truly was a celebration of his life.

**\*Geri Beyer** has been hospitalized at Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove Village. Please continue to pray for her continued strength and courage while she deals with this cancer and its complications.

**\*Mary Fortino**, with a few speedbumps, continues to live her life with grace and a smile.

**DuPage Convalescent Center's**

# 47th Annual **Fall Festival**

**Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

## **Spectacular Raffle**

**Our Famous Homemade Apple Slices**

**Bake Sale • Food & Entertainment**

**Resident Crafts • Flea Market & Crafters**

**Huge Garage Sale • Scarecrow Patch**

**Used Book Sale • Kids Games & Prizes**

**Mum Sale • Car Show & Silent Auction**

**Free Admission & Parking**

**Animal Care & Control  
Open House & Pet Expo**

**Proceeds benefit the DuPage Convalescent Center  
Foundation and Recreation Fund which provide quality  
of life programs and services to the residents!**

**DuPage Convalescent Center**

**400 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton • 630-784-4495**

**[fallfestival@dupageco.org](mailto:fallfestival@dupageco.org) • [dupageco.org/convo](http://dupageco.org/convo)**



## 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)**



## 2014 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.....Esther Ahlrich
- Hospitality.....Mary Fortino
- \*Recording Secretary.....Kelly Vitacco
- \*Ways & Means.....Linda Kunesh
- \*Corresponding  
Secretary.....Joyce Basel
- \*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.

## off the mark

by Mark Parisi

