

The Trowel



President's Prose

Volume 3, Issue 3

Dear Members and Friends,

What a strange summer this has been – first more rain than we needed, then hot and dry and now – still in August – we have had several really brisk cool mornings that feel as though Fall has arrived!! No doubt it will get hot again, and frankly, I loved the cool start to the day and will be quite happy when autumn arrives.

As many of you know, this has been a very unusual time for me too – I had to move from my lovely little house into an apartment and while the apartment is really very nice, it is so much smaller than my house that I just could not fit all of my “treasures” into it. Two garage sales later and I still seem to have boxes everywhere and several others stored in the homes of good friends. I'm hoping that one of these days I will get back to normal and be able to find my way around and know where my belongings are ...! Moving is definitely not fun and I do want to take this opportunity to thank my garden club friends for all the help that they have given to me. Honestly, without you all I simply do not know what I would have done!

And some of you may also know that I made a very quick little trip to Stockholm, Sweden – a sad trip this year as it was to say goodbye to my dear friend of 45+ years who has been stricken with pancreatic cancer. To say that this was not something I planned or wanted to do is an understatement, but I am very glad that I was able to go and we made it a joyous occasion remembering all the “fun” times we have had over the years. And, optimistically, we promised to meet again – next summer perhaps!!



Our dear little Geri Beyer passed away and many of you attended her services. Her family were truly overwhelmed by the number of garden club members who came and remembered her and all that she meant to us. She had her 79th birthday just a few days before she passed and Maureen, Linda and I were with her sons to celebrate with her – we popped a bottle of champagne, had chocolate and strawberries and sang to her several times. It was a lovely send off and I know that she enjoyed being showered with the love and attention.

And now on to happier things – I cannot believe that the year has gone again so quickly, but before we know it the leaves will be turning pretty colors, Halloween and Thanksgiving will be here and then another Christmas and another year with new and exciting adventures. I will return with a small group to my beloved South Africa in October and truly wish that you could join me!

Take care good friends, stay healthy and happy and I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

Joyce Basel

“Just living is not enough,” said the butterfly.

*“One must have sunshine,
freedom, and a little flower.”*

Hans Christian Anderson



Photo Contest Reminder

Don't forget to send photos of your plants to Bloomingdale Garden Club @ 326 White Hall Terrace, Bloomingdale, IL 60108, or digital photos to Joyce Basel at joyceb@inbox.com before September 30th. It's been a great season with a good amount of rainfall for all of our plants. Let's all take some great pictures of our pots and gardens. You could win a gift certificate for our 2016 garden sale. Don't forget to include your full name and phone number.



2016 Flower & Plant Sale

Save the date: May 13 & 14, 2016

The date is a bit later than recent sales as Mother's Day falls so early. If we were to hold the Sale prior to Mother's Day, we'd be selling in April. YIKES!



Upcoming 2015 Programs

September 15

Mike Nowak

Thriving in Hard Soil-Community Garden Information

Mike is a noted radio/print personality. This promises to be a fun and informative evening.

October 20

Kathy Rose (Kaleidoscope of Floral Design)

Kathy will demonstrate 5 Seasonal Arrangements and have a Q & A.

November 17

Christmas Centerpieces-Nursing Home Craft
Come help us make these fun holiday table decorations to brighten up the dining room at the West Suburban Care Center



December 8

Club Christmas Party
Details to Follow

Apple Cider Vinegar Uses!

For external itching - dry skin - whatever: mix 1/4 c. apple cider vinegar, 1 c. water. With a clean cotton ball, apply to itch several times a day and stop when itching subsides.

Apparently many weeds really dislike apple cider vinegar too. Just spritz it on and watch them wither away. It is also a great deterrent to fleas and ticks!!

(Excerpts from an ad about Apple Cider Vinegar as a multi-purpose life elixir)

For a more complete resource, check out, The Vinegar Anniversary Book, by Emily Thacker. Published by James Direct Inc.

Update Regarding the DuPage Convalescent Center's Resident Garden

Another HUGE thanks to the Bloomingdale Garden Club for donations of flowers and members' time and talents planting at the Convalescent Center's Resident Garden. The Garden looks spectacular! This is especially significant as the site for the outdoor classroom which was supposed to be completed last fall, and then by May, is just a huge hole with cement footings that now have to be replaced before construction of the classroom can even begin. The Rainbow Garden gives residents and their families something of beauty to enjoy!

The original contractor for the outdoor classroom finally left the project after multiple issues were discovered. No payment was made to the company. A new contractor will take on the project by September, 2015, with completion date anticipated a month later.

Unfortunately, while the Center hoped to have a celebration where Garden Club members would be invited to attend, this celebration will now take place in 2016. On behalf of the DuPage Convalescent Center(DPCC) Foundation Board, THANKS BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB!

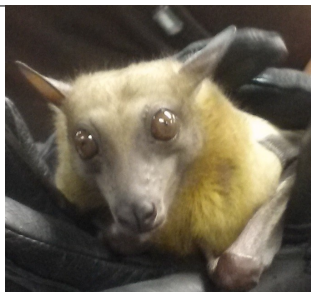
New Funds Donated

I also want to share some incredible news! The *DuPage Chapter of 100+ Women Who Care* recently awarded the DPCC Foundation more than \$10,000 for the Resident Garden Program!!! Master Gardener Intern, Sally Wiarda, who also is on the volunteer gardening team with me at DPCC, presented for funding consideration the Resident Garden to the DuPage members of *100+ Women Who Care*. The monies donated will go towards the purchase of an outdoor kitchen that residents, family members, and staff may use for resident activities, as well as pay for some repair work for some of the raised beds where residents plant vegetables and flowers.

100+ Women Who Care is a unique local fundraising effort originally begun in Michigan by Karen Dunigan, Founder. Since 2007, Sally has coordinated the *DuPage Chapter of 100+ Women Who Care*. Each member commits to donating \$100 four times/year. The donations are given to DuPage County charities, non-profits, or worthy causes serving DuPage County. Just three charities are presented at each meeting and the member nominating the charity is given five minutes to present. No national charities are considered as the purpose is for the contribution from each member to stay local. A vote by ballot is taken by the membership, the winner announced, and all members write a check for \$100 directly to the selected charity, non-profit, or worthy cause. No middleman; no overhead. All this in less than an hour! Results: MORE than \$10,000 awarded to a different group four times/year!!! Since 2007, the *DuPage Chapter of 100+ Women Who Care* has awarded nearly \$400,000! What an amazing gift this will be to improve quality of life opportunities for residents of DuPage Convalescent Center!

Linda Kunesh

Bats & Skunks



If you missed the August meeting you really missed out on a fun evening. Sharon & Dan Peterson gave a very lively and engaging presentation. We all need to dispel our fears of Bats as they not only consume a very large amount of insects, but also aid in pollination and distribution of seeds. Sharon carried around one of their larger bats for all of us to see. Amazingly tame.



They also brought along one of their “pet” skunks, Bella. She was a delight to hold—obviously she has been de-scented.



Back in the spring, Loriann Gulik shared some photos of her family making bat houses for the Community Garden. Wondering if they got any tenants over the summer?

Side Note: Esther Ahlrich brought in a surprise plant from her garden. It was corrected identified as a Red Garnet Amaranth. Tall, dark red and beautiful.



United Methodist Church Thank You Note

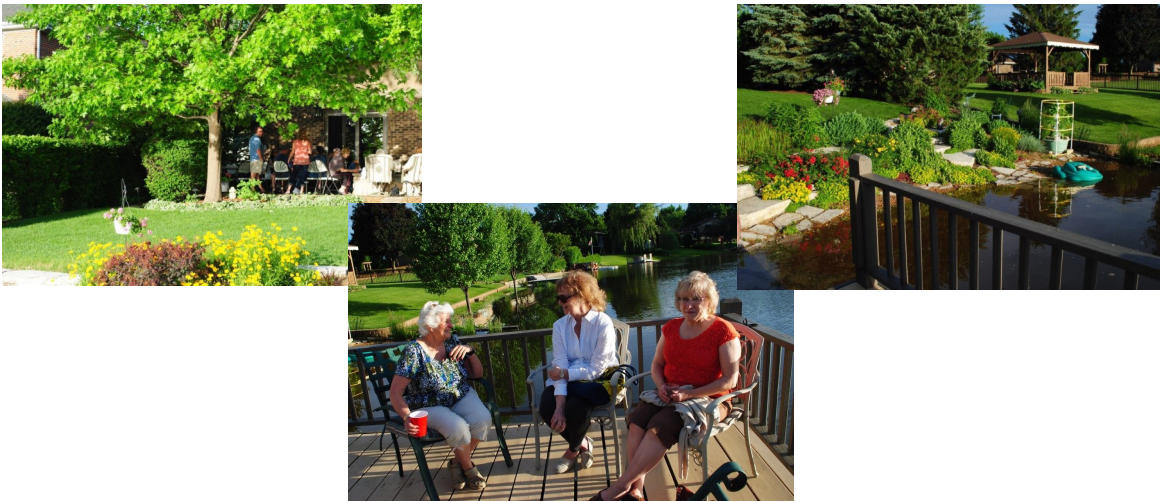
This note was received from one of volunteers for the church’s food pantry.

“I worked the food pantry produce room on Saturday and all the garden club produce was selected first. The clients were so happy to receive fresh, home grown produce. The stuff they get from Caputo’s is usually not very good quality as it is nearing (or at) its use date. So while you guys are working hard in the garden, I am working hard in the pantry seeing the fruit of your labors and the delight on the client’s faces to receive such fresh produce!”



June Garden Tour at Judy Markowski's

Our June Garden Party at Judy's was a wonderful evening. Judy's gardens are beautiful and the lake setting was a lovely backdrop. Thank you Judy for all your hospitality. Here are some photos from the evening.



Left to Right: Joyce Basel, Marilyn Dattilo, Chris Magnatowski

Platt Hill's Annual Platt-a-Palooza

Carole Lockerbie will be a vendor at Platt-a-Palooza, September 5th from 9am-6pm, rain or shine at Platt Hill Nursery in Bloomingdale. Her beautiful selections of garden yard art and other creations will be featured. Great frozen tequila drinks and hot dogs and popcorn.



Membership

We have added several new members since the last issue of the Trowel. A revised membership list will be sent under separate cover in the near future. Our newest "member" Addi, was welcomed into the world on August 22 to Sandra and Eric Schmitt. Congratulation to Sandra and Eric on their first child.



This photo was submitted by Pat Frank. Interesting to have both blue and pink on the same hydrangea plant.

Thanks Pat!

Giving Garden Photos



Look what is growing!!!!



New Homes for Joyce's Perennials

The recent move from my house with a garden into an apartment without one, caused me quite some anguish and I decided to offer my perennials to my garden club friends in the hope that at some time in the future I would not only be able to see them again, but quite possibly get a few cuttings back and plant them somewhere. If they are prolific (and there is no reason to doubt that they will be), we should all be able to buy their offspring at the 2015 plant sale!!! So look for lavender, pink and white phlox, pink columbine, a variety of lilies, and several different color of irises! My pinky-winky hydrangea and pure white bleeding heart as well as the gorgeous purple delphinium and blue bell flower will give someone pleasure and I know that they will be well cared for. Thank you dear Garden Club friends!!! You are truly wonderful.

Joyce



Tip from Marilyn Johnson:

Instead of pulling your plants out of the garden, clip them at the soil level and leave roots to compost through the winter. Doesn't work as well in pots though.



Gail Sanders brought this to Judy's in June—Requested Often

Raspberry Striped Bars by Becky Mullen, Lake Zurich in Daily Herald

1 ½ cups butter, softened
1 ½ cups sugar
2 eggs
1 ¼ teaspoons almond extract
3 ¾ cups flour
¾ teaspoons baking powder
3/8 teaspoon salt
18 – 20 ounces raspberry jam

Heat oven to 350°. Grease 12-by-17 inch jelly roll pan.

In a mixer, cream together butter, sugar, eggs and almond extract. Add flour, baking powder and salt and mix until well combined.

Press dough into prepared pan. Make diagonal “ditches” with your pinky finger about 1 inch apart. Fill ditches with raspberry jam. (Use a pastry bag to pipe the jam in the ditches to make it easier.) Bake 15 to 20 minutes, until the edges are slightly brown.

Lightly dust with powdered sugar. When completely cool cut into 1-by-2 inch bars. Makes 5 to 6 dozen.

Nutrition values per serving: 64 calories, 4 g fat, 7 g carbohydrates, 16 mg cholesterol, 25 mg sodium, trace fiber, trace protein.



Pat Frank and Carole Lockerbie: Carol has an abundance of this Prairie Coneflower and is willing to share.

To-Do List

Photos from Ball Gardens Tour



Thank you to Gail Sanders who led a group to this beautiful display/informational garden. Photos courtesy of Bonni Rothbaum.



Community Garden News

A huge thanks to all that have helped volunteer to help with maintaining and harvesting at the Plot to Plate Garden. 154 hours of volunteer work has gone into it so far and 49.1 pounds of produce have been donated.

The committee is already planning some changes for next year. This year certainly presented its challenges, with June being such a wet month and with the soil in poor condition, we are putting our heads together to get this plot amended as fast as possible. My own garden has not produced as much as it usually does this year either. The only gardens I have heard that have been very successful have been raised bed gardens.

The steering committee for the Bloomingdale Park District Community & Giving Garden meets every month and a open house is being planned for Sunday, September 20th from 1-3 p.m. at the Park District Maintenance building. Linda (along with input/editing from the rest of the committee) has put a lot of effort into the Park Districts Brochure. The final edits are being made now. Can't wait until next year when the gardens have expanded to residents!

Marilyn

Good Cheer—Member Concerns

***Sandy Kappeler**—mourning the loss of her husband, Bernie, on August 29, after a long period of ill health. Card of sympathy and/or prayers will be appreciated.

***Geri Beyer**—Our dear Geri lost her battle with cancer on August 5. We join together in our sincere condolences to her family. Her bubbly personality and cheerfulness will be sorely missed.

***Mary Fortino**—Continues with chemo/radiation, her sons helping her in her daily living. Please encourage Mary with notes of friendship.

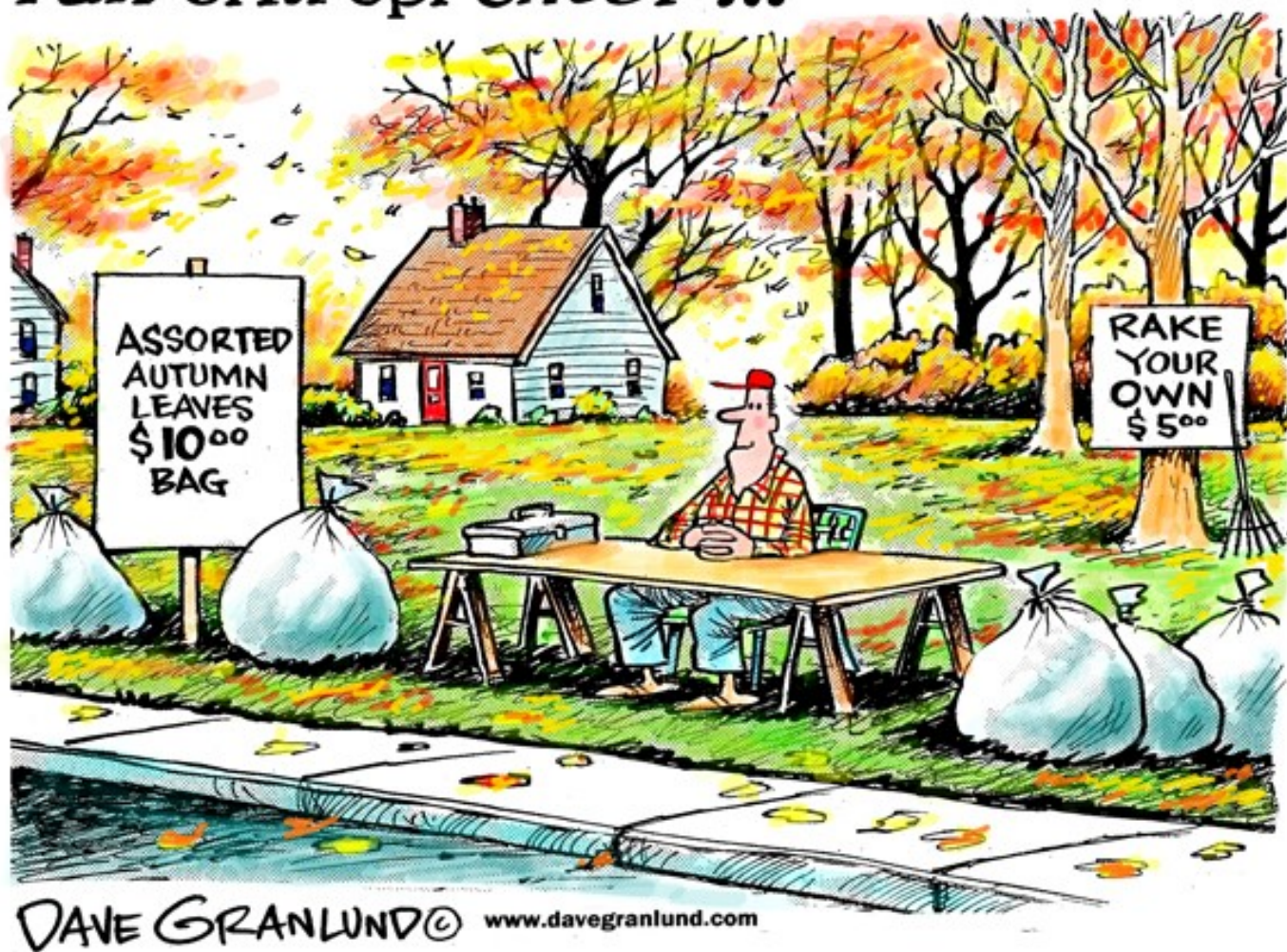
***Esther Ahlrich & Her Family**—Esther's dear husband, Paul, passed away on July 13. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve this huge loss.

***Vivian Krotz**—Pray for endurance as she continues with chemo treatments for a chronic blood cancer. The treatments are making her weak and nauseous and unable to leave her home on a regular basis.



They're Coming.....

Fall entrepreneur...



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.

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.

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

