

# The Trowel



## President's Prose

Volume 4, Issue 1

Dear Members and Friends,

Just when I thought that spring might be peeking around the corner, it snowed again! I've been searching in my little garden to see if any of the daffodil bulbs that I planted last autumn have come through, but on the dreary north side it remains cold and still. On the other hand I visited Esther recently and on the sunny west side of her house, she has patches of tulips already. I am soooooo envious!

I hope that some of you will decide to join me as April approaches and take a little stroll through Meacham Woods. I was inspired by the speaker who told us about all the wild flowers that we may see and am hoping to do that this year. I do need someone with me who can identify them though as I am sure I won't remember. Let us find a way to get a group together and enjoy the outdoors.

Your Plant Sale committee have already been very busy making plans for the sale in May and I hope that you have placed your orders with Henia and will be ready to get up early that weekend to help unload the truck and set up for another exciting and successful event.

Please note on your calendars that we change venue as of April for our monthly meetings. We will be at St. Paul Church and you will get timely reminders from the Program Committee in this respect. The meetings remain on the third Tuesday of the month and I know that I am looking forward to another year of interesting speakers.

Regarding the Community and Giving Garden – the Park District held their lottery for the plots and I know that there are quite a few very excited members of the public who will be joining us this year planting vegetables and flowers in Springfield Park. Your Plot to Plate Committee did a great job with our garden and will be there to get us going as soon as it is possible to sow seeds and plant the new crop.

At the final "Steering Committee" meeting held at the Park District recently, Joe Potts thanked everyone for their dedication and hard work in making this garden a reality in such a short time. The Steering Committee, which comprised of three representatives from our club, two from the Roselle Park District Garden Club and one from the Master Gardeners, will now be replaced by an "Advisory Committee" and our club will be represented by the person who chairs the Plot to Plate Committee.

On a more serious note, I understand that some of you were uncomfortable at the end of the long business meeting in January. For this I want to offer you my personal apology. As many of you know, I did offer this apology at the end of the February meeting but some members left early and so did not hear it. I am willing to meet with anyone who wishes to talk to me personally. I am always at your disposal.

Looking forward to springtime and a glorious summer of gardening!!

Joyce Basel



## Mel Zaloudek's February Program

We were treated to a very informative look at the many wildflowers that are found in our local area. Mel encouraged us to be sure to go to our local forest preserves or The Morton Arboretum several times during the months of April and May. There are many varieties of wildflowers and they bloom at different times. When the dogwood trees begin to bloom, the wildflowers are done.

One of few wildflowers that will grow in our gardens is the Celandine Poppy. While it is available, be completely sure to only get the variety labeled "Stylophorum". Other varieties will be very invasive. Wild Ginger can also be used as a groundcover in a shady garden.



## Membership

Remember that membership dues for 2016 should be paid as soon as possible. \$20 for a single, \$25 for a couple. Checks should be made out to Bloomingdale Garden Club and mailed to:

Jennifer Moore

336 Elmwood Lane

Bloomington IL 60108

We welcomed 5 guests to our February meeting.

### Upcoming 2016 Programs

#### March 15

Joannie Rocchi -The Growing Place  
She will be demonstrating how we can easily make a pretty terrarium to decorate our homes.



#### April 19

Plant Sale Preparations  
Flower Pot Decorative Craft Project  
A simple and very colorful accent for our pots!

#### May 17

David Brooks  
Foraging For Wild Edibles  
Our backyards and gardens, as well as local woods and meadows, abound with nutritious and tasty wild plants. This presentation provides an introduction to the ancient skill of foraging for wild plants. We will learn to identify, properly harvest and prepare a variety of plants, moving through several seasons.

## Bloomington Garden Club to Plant At the DuPage Convalescent Center May 21, 2016

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 21st, 2016, 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 18th 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)

## 2016 Bloomingdale Garden Club Flower and Plant Sale Friday & Saturday, May 13 & 14

Spring will be blooming 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 30, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Rain or Shine).** Kelly Vitacco's house, 117 S. Maple Ave., Bloomingdale. Bring your perennials with information attached and we'll help get them potted. Also bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage.

**Sneak Peak at Perennials, Wednesday, May 11, 5 -- 7 p.m.** Members & friends may purchase early at Kelly's house (cash or check only)

**Plant Sale Prep, Thursday, May 12, 2 -- 7 p.m.** We'll be bringing over the perennials from Kelly's house and take all equipment to our Plant Sale location – the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Drive (NORTH end of Springfield Park), Bloomingdale. VANS, TRUCKS, & SUVs are especially needed for this process! We hope to set up as much as we can this day to save time for the next morning to unload the flowers upon delivery from Bartels.

**Flower Delivery & Staging, Friday, May 13, 5:30 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. NOTE: Those who help this morning may pick their own pre-sale orders!

**Picking Up Pre-Sale Orders, Friday, May 13, 1 p.m.** We'll do our best to have all pre-sale orders pulled, set aside, and ready for pick up by 1 p.m. We will not sell to the public until all pre-sale orders are pulled and set aside.

**Plant Sale: Friday, May 13, Noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** (Possible Sale on Sunday, May 15, 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 will be available for the raffles. Items for sale include wedgies, butterfly sipping stations, leaf castings, and yard art.

**NEW This Year: Master Gardeners will be available on Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to plant container gardens.** You supply the container. Cost will include the plants you select + a small fee for the soil & slow-release fertilizer.

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

**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!***

# 2016 Guidelines for Perennials

## Bloomingtondale 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 23rd, contact Kelly Vitacco @ 630-542-6977 or email (preferred!) (kellyvitacco@gmail.com) 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. Kelly 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. Blooms August-September.

**Perennial Plant Potting Party: Saturday, April 30th, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** Rain or Shine! Kelly’s House, 117 S. Maple Ave., Bloomingtondale. You may bring your plants in bags or boxes and members will help you get them potted. Also bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage. Members may purchase perennials at the Potting Party.

**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, May 11th, 5 – 7 p.m.:** Members and friends may purchase early at Kelly’s house – cash or check only. The more we sell this day, the less we need to transport the next day.

**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 30<sup>TH</sup> to allow the plants to “settle in” into their pots before our Sale.** 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 or boxes, please). Call Kelly (630-542-6977) 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, May 12th, 4-6 p.m. or Friday May 13th by 10 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 Kelly at 630-542-6977 or Linda at 630-221-8684.**

## Help Needed!!! Memorial Garden Committee Volunteers Please

I am remiss in that I dropped the ball last year with regard to the Memorial Garden and I am hoping that some of you will help me get this together again so that we can dedicate this garden in June!!

A few fun volunteers will be wonderful!! We need to re-connect with the rock guy, plant the garden, and finish this project with a fitting Memorial to all of those who have served before us at our terrific club.

Just call me 1-630-327-3871

My heartfelt thanks to my previous committee! Joyce

## DIY Plant Markers

Henia Sullivan found these cute ideas to make own plant markers:



All we need are wine corks, bamboo skewers, bamboo wooden spoons and permanent markers!

## Calling all Orchid Lovers!

Hello To All Our Plant-loving Friends,

The Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society will again be having a display and sale at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL.

The dates of our event are March 19 and 20 from 12 to 4:30 pm.

Do hope to see you there!

Yours in hobby,

Susan, Showchair for the N. IL Gesneriad Society



## 2016 Photo Contest

To everybody who submitted pictures for the 2015 photo contest, the Committee would like to say a “big” thank you! Many of them were quite exceptional and imaginative and we enjoyed receiving such a broad selection of both subject and creativity.

Judging proved to be challenging as there were several that definitely stood out above the rest. We enjoyed the challenge and hope that we will have a similar experience this year.

This is a fun contest, sharing images of summer and the joy of gardening as—as judges—gives us a wonderful chance to relive the season and memories of the year’s beautiful gardens.

Images are judged not only on the subject presented, but also on composition, lighting, color and presentation. However, we would like to encourage everyone to take photos of your favorite flower or container and send it in. A cozy nook in your garden with an unusual plant or imaginative grouping may be the very one that catches the judges’ eye!

Thanks again for your past participation and we do look forward to seeing your images again this year.

Please send the digital copies to Joyce Basel and the hard copies to: Carole Lockerbie 326 White Hall Terrace Bloomington, IL 60108

## Hummingbird Migration Will Be Starting Soon

Check this website regularly to see how close the hummers are getting. Get your feeders cleaned and ready!

[www.hummingbirds.net/map.html](http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html)





### **Bloomington Garden Club 2016 Program Schedule**

**January 19—Business Meeting**

**February 16**

Mel Zaloudek - Spring Wildflowers of the Illinois Woods

**March 17**

Joannie Rocchi (The Growing Place) - Terraria-Demo on Terrariums

**April 19**

Plant Sale Preparation & Garden Craft

**May 17**

Dave Brooks - Foraging for Wild Edibles

**June 21**

Emily Paster - Preserving the Harvest

**July 19**

Glenn Grosch - Hydrangea's

**August 16**

Garden Club - Memorial Garden Dedication

**September 20**

Kay McKeen - SCARCE-Founding Fathers & Recycling

**October 18**

Bill Karges - Putting the Garden to Bed

**November 17**

Christmas Nursing Home Craft/ Personal Craft

**December 6-Date Could Change**

Club Christmas Party

**\*\*Unless otherwise noted, our monthly meetings begin with a social time from 6:15-6:45 PM. Any business will be discussed from 6:45-7:00 PM. Program or speakers will begin at approximately 7:00 PM. Our meetings will be moving to St. Paul Church, 118 S First Street, Bloomington with our April 19 meeting. Please enter from the Bloomington Road side entrance. The parking lot is accessed from Franklin Street.**

*“Friendship is precious not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life and...the greater part of life is sunshine.”*

*Thomas Jefferson*

## Grow Mushrooms Indoors

Bobbi Pulido shared this information from Grow Organics.

Growing Your own mushrooms is fun and easy to do. Kits are available to grow mushrooms indoors and spring is a great time to get them started. You can grow oyster, portabella shiitake and more!

For more information : [GrowOrganics.com](http://GrowOrganics.com)



*“Spring is the time of plans  
and projects.”*

*—Leo Tolstoy*

*“Hope, patience and work—  
these are the three graces  
of spring.”*

*—Ruth Shaw Ernst*





## Good Cheer-Member Concerns

**\*Mary Fortino**—We lost our long-time member in December. Her presence will be missed greatly.



**\*Vivian Krotz**—Pray for strength and encouragement for Vivian. While struggling with a chronic blood cancer and macular degeneration, she continues to be in very positive spirits.

**\*Shari Aldous**—Shari is not only mourning the death of her father, but also has a brother and a sister with very serious health concerns. An encouraging word or a note would be most enjoyed.

**\*Jo Dabrowski**—thrilled to report that she is now back at home!

## Travel Opportunity

**Presenting the Blue Danube** - by Mayflower and Travel Techniques - September 25th -

Complimentary pick up service from your front door and return service after the cruise adventure!

Sailing Date of September 25th - return October 5th 2016 -

The ship - The MS Maxima - will follow an itinerary from Budapest to Prague -  
Ports of Call - Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Durnstein, Salzburg, and Prague  
for a two night stay.

Entry level cabin - \$2,599 per person - based on double occupancy -

Adventure is for 11 days and includes 23 meals -

Port Charges are \$85/per person -

Air is optional from Mayflower or Travel Techniques can help you with your miles program or provide a competitive quote.



**Another offer** - Air Credit of \$800/per person - through Mayflower Tours and Travel Techniques!

A truly real bargain is offer by Mayflower Tours and Travel Techniques - if you can sail on the 4th of June - Blue Danube itinerary follows.

Complimentary pickup service from your front door and return service after the cruise adventure!

Sailing Date of June 4th - return June 14th 2016 -

The ship - The MS Amadeus Silver II - this is a brand new ship!

Ports of Call - Prague - for two nights, Passau, Linz and Salzburg, Meik and Durnstein, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest -

Entry level cabin - \$3,199 per person - based on double occupancy -

Adventure is for 11 days and includes 23 meals -

Port Charges are \$85/per person -

Your best airfare will be via Mayflower Tours and Travel Techniques for this sailing date, or if you have enough miles in any

air carrier account, Travel Techniques, can help you with the routing.

Airfare - will run approximately \$1,700 per person.....however, the June 4th sailing date will carry an \$800 credit per person.

Hotels used pre or post cruise - Hotel Yasmin or Premier Majestic Plaza -

Brochures are available upon request - contact - Travel Techniques - Marilyn Dattillo 630-671-0750



2016  
Bloomingdale Garden Club  
Flower Sale

Friday May 13 from 12noon to 6pm

Saturday May 14 from 9am to 3pm

**LOCATION:**

Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building  
259 Springfield Drive -- north end of Springfield Park

\*Cash or check only please

For more information, contact:

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

[www.bloomingdalegardenclub.org](http://www.bloomingdalegardenclub.org)

**Featuring:**

- ❖ Flats of 48 colorful flowers
- ❖ Premium 10" hanging baskets
- ❖ Geraniums & accent plants
- ❖ Proven Winners & Specialty plants
- ❖ Vegetables & herbs
- ❖ Cannas, grasses & Tuts
- ❖ Patio pots - 10 & 12 inch
- ❖ Perennials from members' gardens
- ❖ Master Gardener Help Desk
- ❖ Garden items
- ❖ Raffle
- ❖ Container garden planting service  
(on Saturday)



## Many Reasons to Love Gardening!

Diane Stoll from Planter's Palette shared 8 reasons to love gardening in a recent Daily Herald article:

Gardening is good for your health

Gardening reduces stress

Gardening make gardeners happy

Gardening is financially rewarding

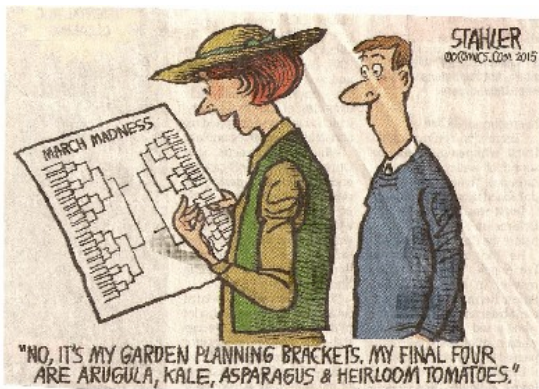
Gardeners save money when they plant their own food

Gardening keeps gardeners young

Gardening gives gardeners a way to help others

Gardening is fun and rewarding

I'm sure we could all think of many more!!!!



### Top Ten Easy-to-Grow Veggies (Niki Jabbour, Birds & Blooms Extra)

1. Bush Beans
2. Asian Greens
3. Cherry Tomatoes
4. Zucchini
5. Swiss Chard
6. Garlic
7. Peas
8. Cucumbers
9. Lettuce
10. Japanese Turnips



## 89th Annual GCI Convention

“The World of Hummingbirds”

Sunday & Monday, April 24-25

Chicago Marriott/Naperville

1801 N. Naper Blvd

Naperville IL (800)228-9296

Many interesting speakers/programs.

Registration Forms are located in your Winter 2016 Garden Glories Publication.

For information, email Bob Nicholson (Registrar)

[pyramidgardens@yahoo.com](mailto:pyramidgardens@yahoo.com)

## Bloomington Garden Club

Meeting Location: March 15  
Bloomington Police Station  
201 S Bloomington Rd  
Bloomington IL 60108

Moving in April to:  
St. Paul Evangelical Church  
118 S First Street  
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.

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.

## 2016 Club Officers/Committees

*President.....	Joyce Basel
*1st Vice President.....	Jennifer Moore
(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.....	Chris Magnatowski
	Kelly Vitacco
	Akhila Meda
*Recording Secretary.....	Joyce Boryla
*Ways & Means.....	Linda Kunesh
*Corresponding	
Secretary.....	Joyce Basel
*Denotes Executive Board	



*Let us be grateful to people who  
make us happy; they are the  
charming gardeners who make  
our souls blossom."*

*Marcel Proust*