

The Trowel



President's Prose

Volume 4, Issue 2

Dear Members and Friends,

Within an hour or two I am leaving for the airport to visit my sister in Johannesburg and attend a meeting that I have enjoyed for the past almost thirty years. I am a Founder member of the African Zoo Association (PAAZA) and was honored a few years ago to be given Honorary Life Membership. It will be a lot of fun to see all these old friends and I am looking forward to it.

As you all know, the annual Plant Sale is once again a thing of the past !! And once again it was a tremendous success even though the vehicle arrived late and we had a horribly hectic time trying to sort the special orders before opening up to the public. Linda will write more about this but I just want to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who came out to help – especially those spouses who went the extra mile to guide the vehicle to us.

Several of our members were honored by Bloomingdale's Character Counts Coalition and I want to congratulate Bonni Rothbaum and Marilyn Johnson for their services to the community. I was one of those honored and I do really consider it a privilege and am happy that our Club is so highly regarded. You may recall that in previous years Joyce Boryla and Helen Price have been similarly honored.

Summer seems to have finally arrived and it is going to be hot today with big storms approaching ... I hope my flight leaves on time and I will be thinking of you all as I fly away to Amsterdam and then down the continent of Africa to Johannesburg. It is winter time there why am I leaving now when it is finally getting nice here???

Well dear friends, I'll see you all again soon. Have a happy summer!

Joyce Basel

*Every act of kindness moves to a larger one till
friendships bloom to show what little deeds have done.*

June Master Bacher

Spring Programs



Joannie Rocchi from The Growing Place shared her expertise in putting together terrariums in March. She encouraged us all to give this a try and to look at vessels that we have that can be used. She also shared that we needed limit them to living plants. Seashells, seasonal objects etc. can be used very effectively in glass.

Bonnie Rothbaum shared a photo of one she put together.....



In April, Linda Kunesh informed us all of the many ways that we could volunteer to help out with our annual Plant Sale fundraiser in May along with general information about the sale. We also put together fun wire pot decorations and reviewed some proposed changes to our By-Laws.

In May, David Brooks from the Spring Valley Nature Center in Schaumburg shared his knowledge on "Foraging For Wild Edibles". Who knew that some of the common weeds we all know, are actually edible and nutritious. David handed out a recipe sheet that included Flower Fritters. Has anyone tried them????

A Walk in the Woods...

On Saturday, May 7th, eleven of our members, plus Joe Boccuzzi's mother, were given a guided tour through Meacham Grove. Jim Unger, a DuPage County Forest Preserve Volunteer, met us at the west entrance on Rosedale Road across from the Bloomingdale Township building. Jim provided us with maps and a list of 10 wild flowers we might identify. He did provide a history of the area as well.

We did see Mayapples, two types of trilliums, wild Leek, Jack-in-the Pulpit plus lots of wild mustard. The photos were taken with a cell phone.



Upcoming 2016 Programs

June 21

Emily Paster

Preserving the Harvest

She will cover 5 ways to preserve your garden harvest from canning to freezing to drying and root-cellarling. Lots of great information that we can use in the months ahead.

July 19

Glenn Grosch

Hydrangeas

Glenn will share a colorful presentation on growing hydrangeas successfully in the Chicago area. 5 species will be covered for hardiness, light requirements and moisture needs. Pruning for flower display and managing blue/pink bloom color will be included.

August 16

Memorial Garden Dedication

We will have a simple dedication of our garden in Old Town Park at 6:30 PM. As that is a concert night in the park, we will encourage you to bring a lawn chair and enjoy the music afterward. Should the weather be inclement, we will gather at our meeting location at St Paul Church for refreshments after the dedication.

2016 Flower & Plant Sale a Big Success!

Once again, Bloomingdale Garden Club members, their families, and friends turned out in great numbers to support this year's Flower & Plant Sale. Despite some great challenges with the extremely late delivery, pulling and setting aside pre-sale orders, and poor weather conditions, our net profit was about \$5,000! (We're still gathering expenses & receipts and will report final figures soon.)

Here are some of the highlights:

Thirty-seven (37) current and two (2) former Club members personally contributed their time over the course of many days! That translates to a participation rate of 71%!!! (We don't know of any garden club that could come close to that level of members' participation!) Plus, many were joined by family members & friends. How great is that!?!

Hundreds of perennials were donated, potted, and sold for \$1,100! We also were able to donate left over perennials to the Park District and two additional worthy causes -- WINGS and DuPage County Group Homes.

As in the past, the Park District Maintenance Building was ready for us by 2 p.m. on Thursday. At various times throughout the Sale, Park District staff assisted with moving tables, plants, and clean up.

Tables rented to us by Rental Max again were at a reduced cost. Table cloths were generously donated by Lydia Modugno, former Garden Club member.

George's 2-tiered racks beautifully displayed our hanging baskets which were organized again by Georgette West and former club member, Roberta DiBasilio.

Master Gardeners not only helped us pull pre-sale orders in the final hour before we opened, they also made the Raffle Container Gardens. They were on-site throughout Friday and Saturday to assist customers, answer gardening questions, and made a few container gardens upon request.

Esther Ahlrich provided the delicious pulled pork for lunch on Friday. Cathy Gall & Jennifer Moore provided sloppy Joes on Sat. MANY club members provide many other goodies & treats. Cathy Kreis kept all of this organized!

Helen Price's publicity efforts, supported by Cathy Gall's & Dan Vitacco's postings on the website and Facebook were awesome! We also had amazing publicity support from the Park District. And the new signs arranged for by Henia Sullivan were fantastic!

Our partnership with Joe Potts and the Bloomingdale Park District continues to strengthen and contributes so much to the success of our Sale. (continued on next page)

2016 Flower & Plant Sale (Continued)

The Raffle Container Gardens & beautiful potting bench/bar (secured by Chuck Aldous) netted \$188!

Yard Art, Wedgies, & soil netted \$189!



Most of the left over annuals were donated to a number of area churches.

The Plant Sale Committee will de-brief later this month. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact one of the Committee members. Already up for consideration for next year are:

finding a new vendor for our plants

possibly setting up and receiving plants on Thursday so we can pull and set aside pre-sale orders then

opening to the public on Friday a.m. without the stress of having to pull orders on the same day

possibly having the Perennial Potting Party at the Maintenance Building two weeks prior to the Sale which will eliminate having to move them in cars & other vehicles

Storing some of our signs at the P.D.

The 2016 Sale was truly a success! It was especially wonderful getting to know many club members on a more personal level. We are such a fun and funny bunch! Thanks to all for your dedication, help, and support.

Your 2016 Plant Sale Committee: Joyce Basel, Cathy Gall, Linda Kunesh, Jennifer Moore, Henia Sullivan, & Kelly Vitacco.



L-R: Ed Matula, Art Dattilo,
Cathy Kreis, Sue Matula



Plant Sale Raffle Winners



Here are the lucky winners:
Sheryl Hofman-Sun Planter
Joyce Basel-Shade Planter
Carole Lockerbie-Potting Bench



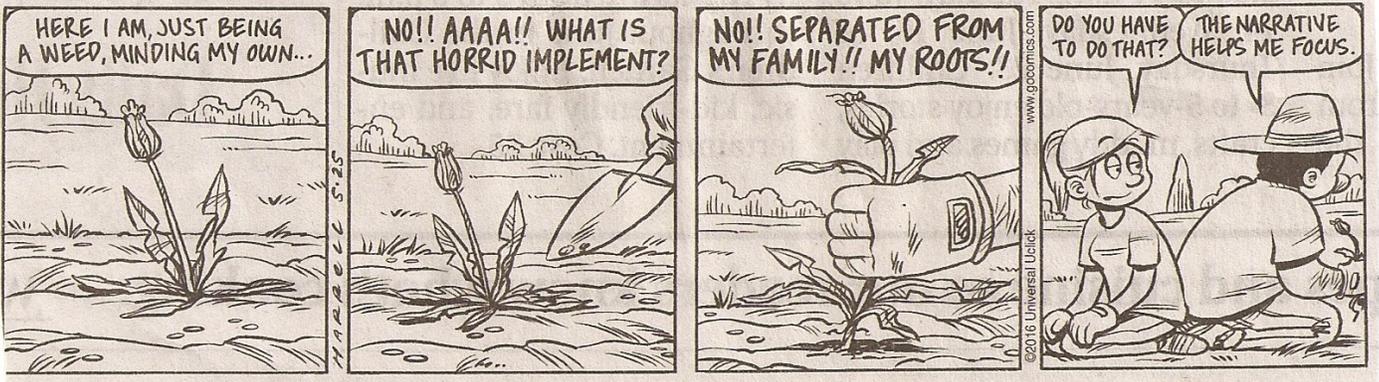
Bloomington Garden Club Members & DuPage Master Gardeners Plant At DuPage Convalescent Center

Saturday, May 21st was a glorious day for planting the annuals at the DuPage Convalescent Center's Secret Garden. A big thanks to Joyce Boryla, Joe Boccuzzi, Akhila Meda, Linda Kunesh, Jennifer Moore, Helen Price, Henia Sullivan, and Cheryl Svec! They joined five Master Gardeners to plant the Rainbow Garden, other in-ground gardens, and containers at the Center. The end result was BEAUTIFUL!!!

The Center's residents, their families, and the staff are truly appreciative of our Club's ongoing flower donations and commitment of time to make the Secret Garden a beautiful outdoor oasis that is enjoyed by so many.

Linda Kunesh

ADAM@HOME BY ROB HARRELL



Benefit Concert at Cantigny Park, Thursday, August 11

Pack a picnic supper & beverages, bring along your lawn chairs, and enjoy a wonderful evening of musical entertainment under the oaks at Cantigny Park, 1S151 Winfield Rd., Wheaton. Sponsored by DuPage Convalescent Center Foundation, all proceeds will benefit residents of the Center.

OMT (One More Time) is the featured band playing rock, indie, and country. Gates open at 6 p.m.; Concert begins at 7. Tickets: \$12 in advance; \$15 at the gate. Tickets are non-refundable. Children under 12 free.

For the past two years, Garden Club members have attended and had a great time. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Linda Kunesh at 630-221-8684 or email: kunesh310@comcast.net

Memorial Garden Has Been Planted



Be sure to attend the August 16 Dedication!

Character Counts Honorees

Congratulations to the 2016 honorees!



Joyce Basel was honored for her work for the Community Garden Project, helping to find the grant for the Du Page Convalescent Center, and my fundraising for FOSCIK (Friends of Shelter Children in Kenya) as well as many years of service to the Garden Club.

Bonnie Rothbaum was honored for her 22+ years of dedicated service to the Bloomingdale Public Library Board and her volunteer time on many library projects.

Marilyn Johnson was honored for her efforts to establish Bloomingdale's Community & Giving Garden, and for providing help for an Eagle Scout Project to build the donation station at the garden site.

Past Garden Club honorees include Helen Price and Joyce Boryla

Left to right, (front row) Jameson Garcia, Alexandra Burkhardt, Ranna Kothari, (middle row) Bonnie Rothbaum, Joyce Basel, Joe Salerno, Karen Kramer, and Tina Piemonte; (back row) Marilyn Johnson,

Bloomington Garden Club's "Plot to Plate" Garden

After several planning meetings to decide what to plant and how to lay out our garden, three members of the committee met at the garden on Saturday, May 7th to plant some early season vegetables. The Park District had done a wonderful job of tilling the soil to which we had added coffee grounds from Joyce Basel and leaf mulch provided by several members. Joyce Boryla, Kathy Mikutis, and Gail Sanders planted snap peas, beets, onions, lettuce, radishes, carrots, Swiss chard, and kale. Joyce had provided the snap pea seeds and the supports for them to grow up. Other seeds were donated. The weather was cool and windy, just what these veggies like. They all have gotten off to a great start and we will be ready to pick kale and chard soon.

Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, basil, parsley, alyssum, and marigolds had been ordered through the Club's Plant Sale. Kathy Mikutis provided potatoes and two bags to grow them in. Master Gardener, Pat Kosmach, donated seedlings of lettuce, cucumber, zucchini, yellow summer squash, basil, dill, cilantro, and Brussel sprouts. Straw was purchased to put down in the paths between the sections. An organic fertilizer was worked into the planting areas.

A planting date of Saturday, May 28th was announced at the May meeting and club members were invited to join us. The forecasted rain held off and club members Joyce Boryla, Kathy Mikutis, Jennifer Moore, Gail Sanders, and Master Gardener Pat Kosmach planted 5 kinds of tomatoes, 4 kinds of peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, bush green beans, Brussel sprouts, zucchini, yellow summer squash, basil, parsley, dill, cilantro, alyssum, marigolds, nasturtium, more lettuce and more onions. As soon as we put the garden club sign up, the garden will be done (unless we end up putting in some late season crops).

The proposed layout was shown at the April and May Garden Club meetings and is included below (East is at top). We have decided to have garden club members sign up to tend (water and weed) the garden on a weekly basis. Sign up for this was started at the April and May meetings. We still could use some help with open dates. See the list on the next page and contact Gail 630 690-9468 or sandersgvjp@comcast.net if you can help.

Thank you to all of the support from the Garden Club. The proceeds from last year's garage sale allowed us to purchase the things we needed for this year's garden. We look forward to being able to provide fresh organic produce to nearby food pantries.

cucumbers lettuce green beans	alyssum tomatoes	marigolds basil	marigolds green peppers
cucumbers lettuce green beans	alyssum tomatoes	eggplant	potatoes sunflowers
cucumbers lettuce green beans	alyssum tomatoes	brussel sprouts	marigolds jalepeno peppers
snap peas summer squash	alyssum tomatoes	swiss chard kale onions carrots	marigolds potatoes dill cilantro
snap peas radishes zucchini	alyssum tomatoes	onions lettuce spinach	marigolds hot banana peppers hot peppers

Plot to Plate Garden Volunteer Sign-up

Garden Help Sign up - 1 or 2 people/week

week of

May 29th	Gail Sanders
June 5th	Spencers & Jennifer Moore
June 12th	Roberta Pulido & Carole Lockerbie
June 19th	Cathy Kreis & Linda Kunesh
June 26th	Joyce Boryla
July 3rd	Jennifer Moore
July 10th	Akhila Meda
July 17th	Cheryl Svee
July 24th	Joyce Boryla
July 31st	help needed
Aug 7th	Akhila Meda
Aug 14th	Cheryl Svee
Aug 21st	help needed
Aug 28th	help needed
Sept 4th	Akhila Meda
Sept 11th	help needed
Sept 18th	help needed



A Weed Killer Recipe to Try....

1 gallon white vinegar, 2 cups Epsom salts,
¼ cup Dawn liquid (the original blue liquid).



Helen Price submitted these photos for us all to enjoy. The iris came from one of our perennial sale items and the beautiful rose was from a garden she visited in Arizona.

Thanks Helen!



Good Cheer-Member Concerns

***Vivian Krotz**—Pray for strength and encouragement for Vivian. Vivian is currently having weekly treatments for her blood cancer.



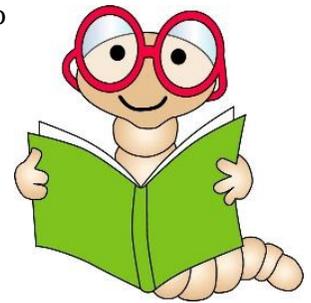
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***Bonnie Rothbaum**—healing from broken bone in her foot.

As "Good Cheer" member I am not always advised when someone needs cheering up, support, transportation or when health issues get in the way of daily activities. I count on you, the members, to be the eyes and ears. Do not assume that 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, 630-980-8223, Jaye408@gmail.com

Read a Good Book Lately?

Helen Price shared information about a new book, "Pollinator-Friendly Gardening" by Rhonda Fleming Hayes. Her five must-haves for a pollinator garden are: milkweed, aster, goldenrod, salvia and liatris. A couple bonus must-haves are zinnias and sunflowers, because they're so cheap and easy to grow and attract so many species of pollinators. According to the Tribune, her book offers fascinating insights to plant-pollinator relationships, provides categorized plant lists and offers practical steps gardeners can take to make a difference.



My daughter gave me a wonderful book for my Birthday, Deep-Rooted Wisdom, by Augustus Jenkins Farmer. It speaks to the old tried and true methods of gardening and then addresses the more modern methods and how both can work. Loved it! (Cathy Kreis)

Feel free to pass along good gardening book recommendations.

Travel Opportunity

Italy - the Canonization of Mother Teresa

September 2-11, 2016

\$2,880-includes air from NYC and Land-based on double occupancy, single supplement, add \$340

Non-stop flight to Rome-visiting the Vatican and Museums-The door of Mercy

Pompeii-Sorrento-Amalfi Coast-San Giovanni Rotondo (Fr. Pio) and Manoppello-Assisi-Rome

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

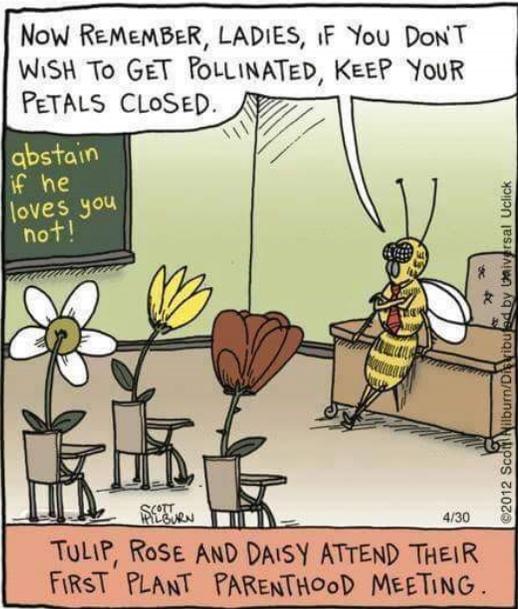
Did You Know???



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Hummingbirds can hover in midair at flowers and feeders, and they're the only birds that can fly

backward. Their wings move in a figure-eight pattern, which allows them to maneuver with ease.



Floriography, the Language of Flowers

Black-Eyed Susan—Encouragement

Peony—Happy Marriage

Columbine—Excitement

Bleeding Heart—Fidelity

Fuchsia—Confiding Love

Hydrangea—Thank You

Foxglove—Youth

Tiger Lily—Prosperity

Published by The Barn Owl



Garden Clubs of Illinois 2016 Summer Meeting

“Red, White and Blooms”

Hosted by District IX

Monday, July 18

Cantigny Park

1S151 Winfield Rd

Wheaton

9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Featured Speaker: Amanda Thomsen, “Kiss My Aster”

Registration Information at pyramidgardens@yahoo.com

Deadline: June 30



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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

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	

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.



It was one of those perfect summer days-the sun was shining, a breeze was blowing, the birds were singing, ad the lawn mower was broken.

James Dent