

The Trowel



President's Prose

Volume 4, Issue 4

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with a degree of nostalgia that I write this to you as it is my last “Pres-prose” as President of your Club, a position I have been privileged to hold for quite a number of years. I have to say that when I first accepted the position, it was with trepidation as I really did not know what to expect. But with wonderful members and guidance along the way from Esther and others, these years have been truly fulfilling and fun. Thank you – each and every one of you – for your friendship and camaraderie.

During these years I have shared with you my ups and downs, my travels and my adventures and it has always been with great pleasure. Please know that being your president has truly been one of the most treasured experiences of my life.

And now, we go on to even bigger and better things for our remarkable club. They say that nothing is as inevitable as change and we have change coming – a good thing and something to embrace. At the January meeting several board positions will change – mine being one of them. I am not leaving, just stepping aside for a new person to make her mark and I will be here to help every step of the way.

Last month I asked our Membership chairperson Jennifer Moore to assist me in putting together a Nominating Committee to come up with a slate of officers for you to consider to lead us into the future. Together with Kathryn Kacalo and Carole Lockerbie they have done a superb job and you will already have received this information in the mail. (The list is also in this newsletter as a reminder for your consideration). I want to thank this Committee for the time and effort they put into inviting (persuading) these members to step up and serve! Please be sure to attend the January meeting to vote them into office and show your support for our club for the years to come.

Thank you again – all of you – I look forward to seeing you at our December party and I take the opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Very best, Joyce Basel

*Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients
of a truly merry Christmas.*

Peg Bracken

Fall Programs

September—Kay McKeen from S.C.A.R.C.E, (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education) shared her vast knowledge and enthusiasm for recycling and sustainable living. We all took away better knowledge of just what is and what is not recyclable. She also turned back the clock and noted some very early citizens who took their love of the land seriously. Kay recommended the book, “Founding Gardeners”, by Andrea Wulf.



October—Bill Kargas from Pioneer Garden Shop in Villa Park gave us lots of great advice on putting out gardens to bed for the winter. Bill is a very down to earth gentleman and so entertaining. A fun evening and lots of good knowledge shared!

November—The club held our annual discussion on where to disburse our monetary donations. (See Below) What a lovely thing it is that as a club we are able to do so much! We then dived into our craft project for the West Suburban Care Center. 70 wreaths were made to adorn the residents’ doors. Thanks to all the greens flufflers, bow makers, adders of the decorative picks and hanging ribbons and of course, quality control. The wreaths turned out very pretty and were appreciated by the staff when we dropped them off.. Thanks to Jo Dabrowski for graciously donating pizzas to keep us all fortified for the evening.



L-R: Akhila Meda, Jo Dabrowski, Joe Boryla, Linda Kunesh and Marilyn Dattilo

2016 Bloomingdale Garden Club Donations

Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry \$1,000.00

Bloomingdale VFW Post \$750.00

DPCC (Dupage Convalescent Center) \$400.00

DuPage Pads \$750.00

FOSICK (Friends of Shelter Children in Kenya) \$500.00

Humanitarian Service Project \$350.00

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets 1,000.00

Peoples Resource Center \$750.00

Stepping Stones \$500.00

Total \$6,000.00

*“You do not need to know anything about a
plant to know that it is beautiful.”*

Montagu Don

But...do you know what the difference is between a
cactus and a succulent?

Really just a trick question....

Cacti are a type of succulent, which simply means
having leaves or stems capable of storing.

Birds and Blooms, October/November 2016

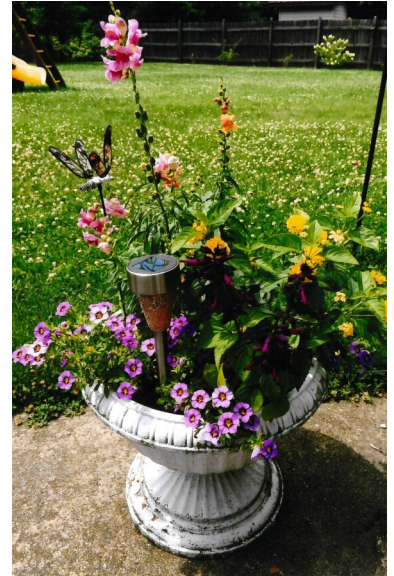
Photo Contest Winners



First Place: Marilyn Dattilo



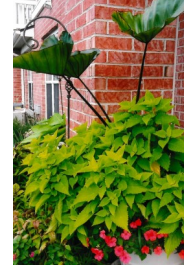
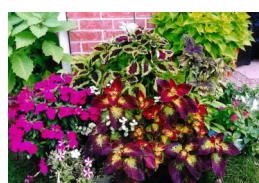
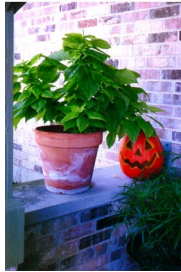
Second Place: Beverly Petrosius



Third Place: Loriann Gulik

The Photo Committee sends congratulations to the winners of our 2016 Photo Contest! This year's contest was a great success. Each year we get more entries. The potted plants and garden pictures from our entrants showcase the beautiful variety of flowers available at our annual sale. It's always fun to see what people have done with the plants they have so carefully selected. We can all get new ideas from other gardeners' beautiful pictures. Be sure to check out the poster of winners and honorable mentions at our Spring 2017 Plant Sale.

Honorable Mentions:



Don't Forget.....National Squirrel Appreciation Day—January 21, 2017

Fun Facts from Birds and Blooms January 2017 edition.

1. In 1877 a handful of these mischievous creatures was first released in New York's Central Park, where the population has since flourished.
2. Most gray types can pull off an 8 foot jumps from a stationary position.
3. A squirrel's four front teeth grow about 10 inches a year. Gnawing keeps them short. YIKES!



Snowman Crossing Tree Decorating



A group gathered on the Sunday after Thanksgiving to decorate the Garden Club's tree at the Bloomingdale Library's Snowman Crossing. Take time this season to go see all the trees as they are all very unique and cute! Special thanks to Loriann Gulik who organized the outing, but was feeling a little under the weather.

Back Row L-R: Kathryn Kaccalo, Carole Lockerbie, Jennifer Moore, Cathy Gall, Henia Sullivan, Joyce Basel, Bobbi Pulido, Esther Ahlrich and Cathy Kreis.

Kneeling L-R: Cheryl Svee and Helen Price.



Upcoming 2017 Programs

January 17

Annual Business Meeting

February 21

Scott Stewart, The Lurie Garden

Scott, the Director of the Lurie Garden, will introduce us to the many innovations in garden design and management of this treasure in Chicago's Millennium Park.

March 21

Drew Carhart

Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting
Adding lights to our gardens is a great addition and we look forward to Drew educating us on how we can use lighting in our gardens responsibly and to its best effect.

April 18

2017 Plant Sale Prep
Monarch Butterfly Presentation

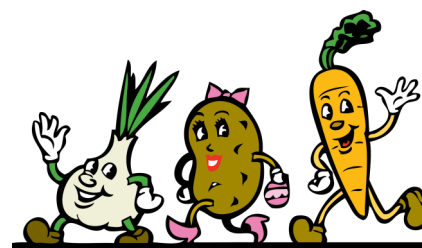


Giving Garden Wrap-Up

The Plot-to-Plate Committee of the Bloomingdale Garden Club (Joyce Boryla, Kathy Mikutis, and Gail Sanders) are happy to report that the garden was able to produce 571 pounds of organically grown fresh vegetables to be donated to local food pantries during the 2016 growing season. With the help of 17 members of the club we were able to supply kale, Swiss chard, lettuce, spinach, sugar snap peas, green beans, green peppers, jalapeño peppers, hot banana peppers, cucumbers, basil, dill, parsley, radishes, eggplant, zucchini, yellow summer squash, beets, potatoes, onions, and tomatoes. We hope to get another bountiful harvest next year.

Thank you to everyone who helped.

Gail Sanders



2017 Plant Sale Information

Important Dates

Mark your calendar for our 2017 Plant Sale! All activities will take place at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Drive (North end of Springfield Park), Bloomingdale. It takes our entire Club to make this one and only fundraiser successful! Thanks so much!!!

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.:

Perennial Potting Party

Thursday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Plant Sale Set Up

Set Up for Sale -- 9 a.m. to noon

Unload Truck & Inventory Delivery -- 12:30 - 2:30

Pull & Set Aside Pre-Sale Orders -- 2:30 - 6:00

Friday, May 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Plant Sale

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pick Up of Pre-Sale Orders

Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Plant Sale



DuPage Master Gardeners Recognition

The University of Illinois Extension of DuPage County recently recognized its Master Gardeners with the 25th Annual Master Gardener Celebration in Naperville. In 2016 it was noted that 10,133 hours of volunteer service were put in with the group directly reaching 10,713 people, breaking a record.

Linda Kunesh was recognized for putting in 300+ service hours to the organization.

Congratulations Linda!



90th Annual GCI Convention

“Go Native”

Sunday March 19—Monday, March 20, 2017

Chicago Marriott/Naperville

1801 N Naper Blvd

Naperville IL 60563

A full registration form, along with programming details and costs, can be found in the latest edition of Garden Glories which should have arrived in your mail recently.

Chicago Flower & Garden Show

“Chicago’s Blooming”

March 18-26, 2017

Navy Pier

For tickets and information visit

Chicagoflower.com

Annual Christmas Dinner

Many of us enjoyed a lovely evening at Jameson's on December 13. The food was delicious and the white elephant gift exchange was quite fun. Joyce Basel and Carole Lockerbie put together the centerpieces of greens and sparkles which were given to the person at the table whose birthday was closest, but not past, the May 5/6 Plant Sale date.

Thank you to Helen Price and George Holtz who took the following pictures of the evening!



Bev Petrosius & Janiel Price



Akhila Meda



Carole Lockerbie & Cheryl Svec



Joe & Joyce Boryla



Art & Marilyn Dattilo



Sandy
Kappeler



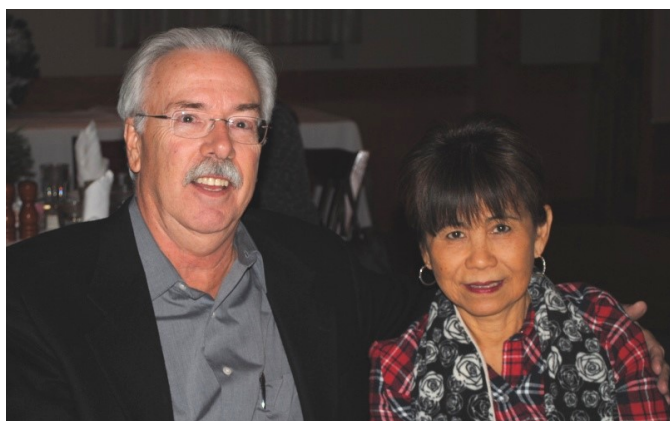
More Christmas Dinner Photos



Helen Price & Henia Sullivan



Chris Magnatowski & Pauline Thomas Brown



Bob & Fu-Mei Thrun



Laura Sewall & her mother, Eve



Kathryn Kacalo & George Holtz



Tim & Jennifer Moore



Garden Club Board and Committee Positions

Your Board and their dutiesoffered by outgoing President – Joyce Basel

Since this newsletter will reach you before our Business Meeting in January and because you will already have received the notice and slate of nominees from our Nominating Committee, I thought I would take the opportunity to just remind you of the duties of your Board and give you a little (humorous) insight as to what they do for you during the year.

President – (fun job!!) oversees everything – attends committee meetings and generally keeps things running ... not always smoothly but always with enthusiasm and due concern for the interests of the club. The idea is to surround yourself with good and qualified committee people and everything works just fine! Either attend all the meetings or have your committee chair people report back to you on a regular basis. And, yes, you must call your Board together reasonably regularly to discuss new things and make any decisions necessary.

Membership – 1st Vice President! Jennifer is handling this job with panache!! She is a gem and is still with you for another year – keep her for as long as you can!! This position entails communicating with the membership, keeping record of attendance, reporting same to GCI and generally being on the ball ! Which Jennifer definitely is!! (She takes over when the president is not around!)

Programs – 2nd Vice President – this position has been held by Bobbi for almost as long as I have been president and she and her committee (Maureen and Cathy K) have done a marvelous job selecting interesting speakers and arranging our programs. The new person may (or may not) engage a small committee to assist and they will not only attend the GCI Programs Meeting in January, but they will choose our speakers for the year and arrange a program for us each month. This is not as easy as it seems, but it is also a fun job and I know that we can look forward to a superb program for 2017 and on.

Treasurer – this is the most serious of our positions and Henia has been awesome!! She keeps us all in line, on time and knows our books to the very last cent! What will we do without her?? A new person will take over and Henia has promised to help with the handing over of the books and to guide her as she transitions into managing the finances of the club.

Recording Secretary – Joyce Boryla is our superb secretary. Not in years has our club actually had Minutes within days of the meeting and all absolutely perfect!! She is definitely another “keeper” and with you for at least another year – do not let her escape!!

Corresponding Secretary – this position has been open for many years and it is only because Henia and I have undertaken all of the outside correspondence. Henia has written the letters and kept all correspondence regarding finances and I have enjoyed writing “thank you” notes and other communications required from time to time. This is an open position and if anyone wants to take over and correspond for us – please let your new president know!!

Garden Club Board Positions (Continued)

Ways and Means Chair, 3rd Vice President – Linda has done this job so well for so long we should just make it permanent!!! She brought us from the dark ages of a small plant sale in a member's front yard to the marvelous event held in May each year and which is the envy of many of our garden club colleagues in the area. Linda is with you for another year!!! Think very carefully about her replacement – these are very, very big shoes to fill!

Publicity!! - Now I am not sure that any of us actually know what magic Helen has up her sleeve to have ensured that our Club is mentioned on such a regular basis in the press!! Helen has energetically and efficiently produced news releases, photos, articles and snippets that have kept us in the forefront in the media for longer than any of us remember. She has indicated in the past her desire to retire from this position, but we just would not let her ... but it is time ... I know that she will share her secrets with her successor and help to keep up this wonderful reputation that we have. Cathy K has also produced our “Trowel” - the newsletter of our club and it is certainly amongst the very best publications of its kind anywhere! Do not let her escape!!! Dan Vitacco is our website guru and we would be lost without him!

Community / Giving Garden – this is a relatively new position and is held by Gail who has done an absolutely magnificent job for us this past season. She and her committee planned our Club's plot, planted it and organized the members to water and harvest throughout the growing season. I believe that this is one of the most rewarding of our endeavors and Gail is to be applauded for her insight and hard work. She too is with you for another year.

Hospitality – Chris and Akhila took over this task last year and are just remarkable in organizing refreshments for our meetings and the cookies etc. that we provide for the West Suburban facility. They have another year to go as well.

Good Cheer – this position entails sending out birthday cards, get well cards and any other communication necessary to our members for special events, illness, loss etc. Jennifer had this portfolio before taking on membership and she may want to hand it over!!! If anyone wants to volunteer please let her know.

Photo Contest – Carole Lockerbie has been dedicated to this project since she first introduced it a few years ago and it has really been a fun and enjoyable endeavor. This is not a board position but it is worth mention as the photos have been submitted by the public from the surrounding area as well as by club members and many of them have been absolutely beautiful. Judging them is not an easy task.

Well – now you know what your Board does! And what they have been doing for you for over 50 years!! A million thanks to everyone who has served this club so faithfully for so long and all good wishes to those stepping up for the years to come.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with all of these and previous board members – Thank you!! Joyce Basel

2017 Slate of Board Positions Up For Election at the January 2017 Business Meeting

President - Laura Sewall

2nd VP / Programs - Mary Sue Fornari

Treasurer- Cheryl Svec

Publicity - Akhila Meda

You should have received a “snail mail” letter outlining the voting procedure. Please let Jennifer Moore know if you did not receive it.



This Surprise Lily (Resurrection Lily) sure lived up to its name. Helen Price sent in this photo of one plant who was tenacious enough to come up through new asphalt in Old Town.

To quote Helen, “nature is amazing:!!!!

Good Cheer-Member Concerns

***Vivian Krotz**—Vivian continues to have weekly treatments for her blood cancer.

***Bonnie Rothbaum’s sister**—after a 20 year remission, her breast cancer has returned.

***Kelly Vitacco’s mother**—now recuperating at Kelly’s home following a serious illness.

***Gail Brewer**—December 12/12 surgery postponed. Rescheduling soon!

Be sure to notify Jennifer Moore of any concerns our membership need to know about.
630-980-8223, Jaye408@gmail.com

Alaska Travel Opportunity

Alaska Cruise and Land Experience

Marilyn Dattilo with Travel Techniques and Mayflower Tours is offering a wonderful Summer 2017 travel opportunity. See all the details below and contact Marilyn at 630-671-0750 for further itinerary information.

The date of travel – July 30-August 11, 2017

The number of meals included - 27 meals - (10 dinners/6 lunches/11 breakfasts)

Free round trip airport transfers - Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana - specific counties - for home pick up - Also includes Local Pick Up Points for Illinois/Michigan/Indiana/Wisconsin

Group discount of \$175 per person

Sailing with the Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Sun

Land accommodations - Marriott/Hilton/Grande Denali Lodge/Wedgewood Resort in Fairbanks

Future Mayflower Money

Pricing: all double occupancy
\$3,299/person, inside cabin
\$3,659/person, outside cabin
\$4,819/person, balcony cabin
\$444 port charges,
government and fees.

Airfare not included



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

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	



*I shall smile when
wreaths of snow
blossom where the rose
should grow.*

—Emily Bronte