

The Trowel



President's Prose

Volume 4, Issue 3

Dear Members and Friends,

What a summer this has been—hot and dry one week and then rainy and humid as can be! My little garden seems to have enjoyed it though as everything is looking very pretty indeed, and I hope that the same can said for yours.

I do know that our Community Garden is looking super and when I was there to water this week I saw all kinds of wonderful fresh tomatoes, peppers etc., ready to be harvested and given to those in need. I really hope that you are as proud as I am about this effort. A huge thank you goes to the Committee headed by Gail Sanders for all their hard work and effort—it surely has paid off.

Your Board had a meeting recently and it was decided that we would offer a very small Fall plant sale via the Bloomingdale Farmer's Market where we have a booth. This will be spearheaded by Kelly Vitacco and we will obtain beautiful mums and other interesting offerings from our new Vendor. Do please visit our booth at the end of this month and be ready to purchase the gorgeous mums on offer.



I am delighted to tell you that my sister, Paddy, will visit me from South Africa this month and I will be bringing her to our meeting to introduce you to her. She has heard so much about all of you over the years that I know she is looking forward to putting names to faces. Of course, she does know a few of you already as she met those of you who travelled with me on safari.

By the time you see this I may well be on my way to San Diego to attend the annual Zoo conference which I have been attending for some forty years. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and doing a little business selling safaris to my wonderful continent. I'll think about you as I enjoy the weather and fun that is California.

As summer winds down, let us look forward to a lovely colorful fall with cooler weather. I'll see you at our next meeting in a week or so.

Very best, Joyce Basel

*Gardening requires lots of water—most of it in
the form of perspiration.*

Lou Erickson

Summer Programs



In June, Emily Paster presented an informative program on preserving out harvests. She covered canning, freezing and even fermentation. Members had the opportunity to purchase her book, Food Swap, in which she writes about how she formed a community food swap in Chicago where folks bring their preserved foods for swapping. Such a fun concept.

In July, Glenn Grosch shared his vast knowledge of the wide varieties of Hydrangeas that are available in our area. I think many were relieved to know that sometimes it is only the winter weather that prevents our hydrangeas from blooming. It is also imperative that you know what type of hydrangea you have before you do any pruning. Some bloom on "old" wood and some on "new" wood.



In August, we dedicated our Memorial Garden in Old Town Park. Please see separate article with details and pictures!

A Thank You....

We received this thank you note and photos from St. Luke Parish. We donated plants after the plant sale to them.

6/20/16

Bloomington Garden Club

Dear Members,

Thank you for the donation of plants for our containers. They certainly do look beautiful at the entrances of our church.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

God Bless,

Reverend Danilo Soriano



Upcoming 2016 Programs

September 20

Kay McKeen

SCARCE-Founding Fathers & Recycling

Kay will inform us all of the varied opportunities for recycling here in the Chicago area. She will also speak to garden/resource conservation and how our historical leaders had a clear understanding of the need to protect and nurture our soil.

October 18

Bill Kargas

Putting the Garden to Bed

Bill will give us great tip for getting our flower and vegetable gardens ready for the long winter ahead.

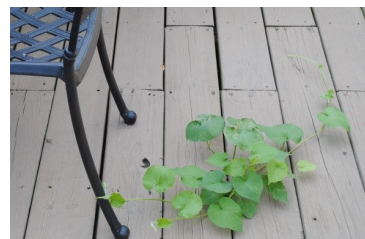
November 15

We will be putting together some type of Christmas craft item for the West Suburban Care Center. The details are still being worked out. Our annual discussion and vote on our year-end donations will also be held.

December 6

Annual Christmas Dinner

Helen Price sent this photo of a very tenacious (as always) morning glory that decided to come up through her back yard deck boards. I'm sure it is blooming by now and probably covers the entire chair!!!!



Memorial Garden Dedication



Right Photo:
Esther Ahlrich, with Pastor Jeremy
doing the big reveal!



The dedication of our Garden of Remembrance at Founder's Park was held on August 16. The event was attended by several Park Board members as well as representatives from the Village. The Park's Board President, Buzz Puccio, welcomed everyone and said very nice words about the Club! Pastor Jeremy from St Paul Church did the dedication, read the list of our members who have passed, and said a beautiful prayer. It was well received by the public, many of whom turned around and participated.

The engraved stone is of pink granite and is really beautiful—it is a handsome rock weighing in at 926 pounds and is engraved as shown above. Please go on over when you have time and take a look—I think you will all be happy with the end result.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped me with this memorial garden—from the initial committee who did the legwork and were enormously patient with me as I went through a move and other personal not happy times, to those who stepped up to the plate this year and helped make it all happen! The garden is really pretty, the stone is beautiful and this “memorial” is something we can all be very proud of.

Joyce Basel

L-R Back Row: Joe Boccuzzi, Bobbi Pulido, Dan Vitacco, Henia Sullivan, Maureen Gibson, Cathy Gall, Linda Kunesh, Esther Ahlrich, Joyce Basel, Kathryn Kacalo, George Holtz. L-R Front Row: Carole Lockerbie, Kelly Vitacco, Cathy Kreis, Helen Price



Plot-to-Plate Giving Garden Update

Things are really growing in the Plot-to-Plate garden. So far we have been able to donate over 400 pounds of kale, Swiss chard, lettuce, spinach, sugar snap peas, green beans, green peppers, jalapeno peppers, hot banana peppers, cayenne peppers, cucumbers, basil, dill, parsley, radishes, eggplant, zucchini, yellow summer squash, beets, potatoes, and tomatoes to the Bloomingdale Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with weeding and watering (Carol Ann Spencer, Jennifer Moore, Roberta Pulido, Carole Lockerbie, Cathy Kreis, Linda Kunesh, Joyce Boryla, Akhila Meda, Cheryl Svec, Maureen Gibson and Laura Sewall). Special thanks to Joyce Boryla and Kathy Mikutis who have been working with me to pick and take all of the produce to the food pantry.

Gail Sanders, Plot-to-Plate Committee

Here is a picture, taken on August 15th, of the items I was taking to the Bloomingdale Food Pantry from that morning's harvest. The total weight was over 80 pounds with at least 50 of those pounds being tomatoes!



Photo Contest Reminder

We hope everyone has been taking pictures of their Plant Sale plants for the Photo Contest. Perhaps your photos will inspire others for next year's Plant Sale ordering and planting. We all have some great gardening ideas, and it would be nice to share with others.

If you haven't already done so, now might be a good time to prune back annual plants. In a few week's times, you will be well rewarded with full and lush plants. Sometimes going into fall our pots and plants are at their best.

Deadline for digitals or photos is October 31st. **CLICK! CLICK!**

Carole Lockerbie



Mary Sue Fornari would like to inform our members of St Isidore's Annual Children's Equipment and Clothing sale on September 16, 6 to 9pm and September 17, 9-12 This is a great opportunity not only for parents to stock up, but grandparents can also find some good prices on items to have on hand.

A Day in the Country, Pottawatomie Garden Club of St Charles

A small group of us went on this wonderful garden walk on July 9. We toured 6 wonderful gardens, enjoying lunch in St. Charles mid-day. While we liked all the gardens, the ones that we loved were the ones that were not professionally done or maintained. Here are a few pictures from the day.



L-R: Akhila Meda, Jennifer Moore, Joyce Basel, Laura Geraci, Cathy Kreis, Sandy Kappeler, Linda Kunesh



This picture hardly does the railroad garden of Dennis Cipcich and Sandy Martens justice. An large, amazing train display surrounded by gardens and a pond.

Bloomington Garden Club's Farmer's Market Booth

Jennifer Moore shared these photos from our booth at Bloomington's Farmer's Market. Remember to visit the market on Thursdays from 3-7 PM. This is a nice community market that will only get better as it is frequented. There are some really nice vegetables rolling in as well as many other food items.



Tomato Basil Jam-from Emily Paster's Book

Slather this tasty spread on warm focaccia for an easy appetizer, or use it to pump up the flavor of a baked cheese sandwich—Yummy!!!!!!

2.5 lbs. of ripe tomatoes, peeled

3 c. sugar

1/4 c. lemon juice

1 1.75 ounce package powdered fruit pectin for

3 T. snipped fresh basil

lower-sugar recipes

1. Seed, core and finely chop tomatoes. Measure 3.5 cups chopped tomatoes; place in a 6 or 8 quart stainless steel, enamel, or nonstick heavy pot. Bring to boiling, stirring occasionally; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 10 minutes, stirring often. Measure 3 1/3 c tomatoes. Return to the same pot. Stir in lemon juice and basil.
2. In a small bowl, combine 1/4 c. of the sugar and the pectin; stir into tomato mixture. Bring to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Stir in the remaining 2 3/4 cups sugar. Return to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Quickly skim off foam with a metal spoon.
3. Ladle hot jam into hot, sterilized half-pint canning jars, leaving a 1/4 inch headspace. Wipe jar rims; adjust lids.
4. Process filled jars in a boiling water canner for 5 minutes (start timing when water returns to boiling). Remove jars from canner; cool on wire racks. **Makes 5 half-pints.**

Per Tablespoon : 39 calories, 0 g fat (0 g sat. fat), 0 mg chol.,

4 mg sodium, 10 g carbo., 0 g fiber, 0 g protein

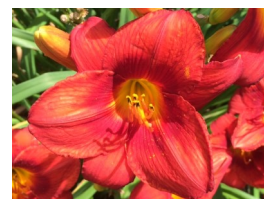


Good Cheer-Member Concerns

***Vivian Krotz**—Pray for strength and encouragement for Vivian. Vivian continues to have weekly treatments for her blood cancer.

***Jennifer Moore**—healing from knee replacement surgery.

***Cathy Gall**—healing from back surgery.



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



In honor of our very, very, hot and humid summer.

A promotional poster for the Chicago Flower & Garden Show. The background is a close-up of a large, vibrant orange tulip. On the left, there is a yellow flower-shaped graphic with a scalloped edge. Inside the flower, the text reads "CHICAGO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW" at the top, followed by "CHICAGO'S Blooming" in a large, stylized font. To the right of the flower, the text "MARCH 18-26, 2017" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "at Navy Pier" in a script font. At the bottom right, a red banner contains the website "CHICAGOFLOWER.COM".

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	

