

The Trowel



President's Prose

Volume 5, Issue 1

Dear Members and Friends,

A warm "Hello" to all of you with this first message from me as your new President! I'm delighted to take over the reins and am looking forward to serving you for the next two years.

Our Club has achieved a great deal already but I know that there is more to be done, and I am ready to "dig in" and get new projects started and continue to move forward with those in place.

As you know, we also have a new Program Chair, Mary Sue Fornari, who has begun to sign up interesting speakers for the coming year. Cheryl Svee, our new Treasurer has assured me that our accounts are all in good shape and she will keep them that way! And Akhila Meda, who took over Publicity from Helen jumped in and has already started sending out our news and information to the various publications in the area. All in all, we have a terrific new Board, and we are all ready and willing to make our Club better than ever.

I proposed finding a new logo, and you will see in this Trowel that Joyce has already invited you to submit proposals. I know that we have a number of talented artists in our midst, so I'm looking forward to seeing a letterhead with our beautiful, brand new logo soon!

Even though winter is lingering (although my tulips are already 2 inches), spring is just around the corner!! Our Plant Sale is coming up quickly, so finalize your garden & container designs! Watching our gardens grow is always a great joy! And, don't forget to take pictures and send them in to the Photo Contest!

Good wishes and Happy Spring to all of you! I am looking forward to getting to know you and to serving you.

Laura Sewall



Be an encourager. Scatter Sunshine.

Debbie Macomber

Winter Meetings & Programs

January—Our annual business meeting was held. All officers and committees gave overview reports for the 2016 year. Elections were also held for those officer positions who were expiring. Here is a list of the new officers: President - Laura Sewall, 2nd VP/Programs - Mary Sue Fornari, Treasurer- Cheryl Svec, and Publicity - Akhila Meda. We certainly recognize our outgoing officers for the many years of dedicated service to our club: President—Joyce Basel, 2nd VP/Programs - Roberta Pulido, Treasurer - Henia Sullivan, and Publicity - Helen Price.

February - Scott Stewart from The Lurie Garden gave a marvelous program on the history and ongoing programming work for this garden located in Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. This entire park is free and Scott shared that it is the most visited public garden in the world!!! We all need to make a point to visit the garden.

March 21 - We look ahead to Drew Carhart from the 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 - Linda Kunesh and the Plant Sale Committee will be getting all of us organized for the upcoming Plant Sale. Be sure you bring your calendars so you will know when you will be able to help out. All hands on deck!!! We will also hear from Kim White of the DuPage Monarch Project. Kim will encourage us to plant Monarch habitat plants in our gardens in order to help reverse the declining numbers of these beautiful butterflies.



Bloomington Garden Club to Plant at the DuPage Convalescent Center May 20, 2017



Please join us to plant flowers at the DuPage Convalescent Center Resident Garden (400 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton) on Saturday, May 20th, 2017, 8:45 a.m. – Noon. Park in any spot designated for Visitor or Volunteer. We'll meet at the Entrance behind the Center (under the maroon canopy). Bring garden gloves, a trowel, and kneeler. Garden benches will be available for those who cannot kneel. Please contact Linda by Wednesday, May 17th 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

Birds & Blooms Top 10 Easy-to-Grow Vegetables

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Bush Bean | 2. Asian Greens (Mustard, mizuna, bok choy and tatsoi) |
| 3. Cherry Tomatoes | 4. Zucchini |
| 5. Swiss Chard | 6. Garlic |
| 7. Peas | 8. Cucumbers |
| 9. Lettuce | 10. Japanese Turnips |



If you are new, start small. A manageable 4x8 bed with at least eight hours of sunlight a day is perfect. If an in-ground garden seems daunting, remember that you can also grow most veggies in containers.

Birds & Blooms Extra 2015

2017 Bloomingdale Garden Club Plant Sale

Friday and Saturday, May 5 & 6

Spring will be blooming with the arrival of beautiful flowers from our NEW vendor, Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Nursery, our professional grower in Grant Park, IL. We'll also have perennials from members' gardens. **Club member help is needed for MANY things!**

NOTE: ALL activities will take place at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Dr., Bloomingdale. (north end of Springfield Park)

Perennial Potting Party, Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Rain or Shine).

Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building. Bring your perennials with information attached and we'll help get them potted. Also bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage. See additional information in this newsletter, "2017 Guidelines for Perennials."

Plastic Pots Needed: Sizes needed – 6", 8", 10", and 12". Bring to the Potting Party.

Plant Sale Prep, Thursday, May 4, 8 a.m. to noon We'll be bringing over all equipment to our Plant Sale location – the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building. VANS, TRUCKS, & SUVs are especially needed for this process! Tables, table cloths, and signage also will be set up.

Flower Delivery, Inventory, Staging, & Setting Aside Pre-Sale Orders: Thursday, May 4, 12:30 -- 5 p.m. We need LOTS of help unloading the flowers; completing the inventory; staging the flats, cases, and baskets of flowers & plants; and pulling and setting aside Pre-sale Orders. Bring your family members, friends, and neighbors to help. NOTE: Those who help this afternoon may pick their own pre-sale orders!

Sneak Peak at Perennials, Thursday, May 4, 5 -- 6 p.m. Members & friends may purchase early at the Park District Maintenance Building. (Cash or check only please.)

Picking Up Pre-Sale Orders, Friday, May 5 & Saturday, May 6 Orders may be picked up after 9 a.m. on Friday.

Plant Sale: Friday, May 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Help is needed for set-up, sales, and clean up. Contact Linda at 630-221-8684 or kunesh310@comcast.net to let her know WHEN you will commit to help. There will also be a sign up sheet at the April 18th meeting

Raffles & Things for Sale: Two large pots (one for sun; the other for shade), will be available for the raffles. Items for sale include wedgies, stepping stones, and other garden items.

Master Gardener Help Desk will be available throughout the Sale.

Collection Site for Gently Used Garden Tools to Benefit The GardenWorks Project. Are you no longer gardening "in-ground?" Do you have a "gently used" rake, hoe, shovel, or some other good, usable tool you no longer use? Consider donating it for the GardenWorks Project (GWP). GWP is an all volunteer, not-for-profit organization in DuPage and Kane Counties that empowers, educates, and promotes organic suburban agriculture to improve the well-being of the community, the environment, and families facing food insecurity. Volunteers assist "new gardeners" to plant & harvest vegetables at their homes. Your gently used garden tools would really be appreciated. Note: NO tomato cages, please.

Winning Photos from Last Year's Photo Contest will be on display, along with guidelines for submitting entries for 2017.

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.



“2017 GUIDELINES FOR PERENNIALS”
BLOOMINGDALE 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 18th, call Cathy Gall at (630) 247-8493 or email her (preferred!) at jocgallfam@att.net 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. Cathy 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:

Quantity: 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. Flowers August-September.

Perennial Plant Potting Party: Saturday, April 22nd, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building (the site of the plant sale - North end of Springfield Dr. between Schick Road and Lake Street). You may bring your plants in bags or boxes and members will help you get them potted. If you have any pots or hanging baskets, please bring them! This is a great time to accept or trade perennials with other club members. Just remember though, that once the plants are “potted” they belong to the club and can only be purchased.

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: Thursday, May 4th from 5 to 6 p.m.: We will offer the perennials for sale to club members and their friends/family. Cash and checks only.

IF YOU DECIDE TO DIG UP AND POT YOUR PLANTS YOURSELF, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

Plan ahead. Perennials should be dug up and potted NO LATER THAN APRIL 22ND. This will allow the plants to “settle in” into their pots. 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 please). Call Kelly at (630) 542-6977 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 Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Dr., Bloomingdale, Thursday, May 4th 5-6 p.m. or Friday May 5th at 8 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 Cathy at 630-247-8493 or Linda at 630-221-8684.



Photo Contest

The pre-order forms for the 2017 Plant Sale have been mailed to everyone, and while you are thinking about what to purchase, think also about the wonderful photos you could be taking of the special plants in your garden.

We have introduced a new category in the competition - "Vegetables and Herbs"! Just imagine that gorgeous red tomato or prize winning pepper, even your parsley attracting a pretty butterfly!!! These images may well win one of the prizes offered.

Remember that your photos are judged not only on the beauty or rarity of the subject, but also on your skill or the manner in which you have captured it. You do not have to be a photographer to get a lovely image - just make the effort! So, go ahead, make your purchases and think about the pictures you will be sending in to this year's photo contest. This is fun !! and could even win you one of the prizes.



A New DuPage Master Gardener

Laura Sewall has officially become a Master Gardener and started her volunteer hours in January. I just may need to wage a little contest with her regarding volunteer hours. Just kidding. The first year is overwhelming with so many opportunities. She'll be a great asset as a MG, and I'm excited for her as the new President of the Garden Club!

Linda Kunesh



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

Top 3 Survey Results for 2016

Thank you to all who participated in the survey! This information is extremely helpful to all the programming committees in our District as they plan out the speakers for the coming year.

I thought you may all be interested in the results:

#1 Bill Kargas—Putting the Garden to Bed

#2 Kay McKeen with S.C.A.R.C.E—Recycling/Sustainability/Founding Gardeners

#3 Emily Paster—Preserving the Harvest

#4 Tie Glen Grosch—Hydrangeas

Mel Zaloudeck—Spring Wildflowers of Illinois

#5 David Brooks—Foraging for Wild Edibles

#6 Joannie Rocchi—Terrariums

As a group we seem to have very diverse interests and the programming committee (Bobbi Pulido, Maureen Gibson and Cathy Kreis) worked to have a variety of topics to meet that diversity.

Thank you to Dan Vitacco for putting the survey together and compiling the results.

“Reality Check” Cartoon from the Daily Herald



New Logo Contest

New LOGO!!!

At the last meeting President Laura Sewall invited club members to consider a new logo for our Club. In the past we have used an image of a pink rose (photo by Helen Price) and pale blue lettering in a rather nice typestyle.

The idea is that YOU - our members - submit suggestions for this new logo. Images, typestyle, artists renderings, photos, colors ... whatever you dream up. We'd like you to keep in mind the mission of the Club, but do not feel restricted - think outside the box!! We have a lot of talented members and feel that a number of you will be able to submit interesting and fun suggestions to us.

I will head up a small committee (all members who do not feel inclined or talented enough to submit something) and we will judge the entries. This could be a really fun endeavor and I am looking forward to seeing what you send. Please submit your ideas to me either via email or snail mail ... email address: joyceb@inbox.com and snail mail, 318 Vinings Drive, Bloomingdale, IL 60108.

Don't delay!!! Get your imagination working today!!!

Joyce Basel

Club Members Exhibiting in Bloomingdale Artists' Association at Masterpiece Framing

The BAA is holding a winter exhibit at Masterpiece Framing featuring an inspiring collection of artwork created by members of the Bloomingdale Artists Association. Bev Petrosius and Helen Price have artwork in the exhibit.

Dates: February 20 through March 24

Location: 109 S. Bloomingdale Road in Bloomingdale

Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri, 10am to 5pm; Tue/Thu, 10am to 7pm;
Sat, 10am to 2pm

The public is also invited to the artists' reception on Thursday, March 9, from 6 to 8:30pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Hello Plant Buddies!

Here in northern IL we've had 4 weeks (minus 2 days) of cloudy, dismal, ho-hum weather. Thank heavens we have our indoor gardens on our windows and light stands to give us some cheer!

We invite you to attend the display and sale for the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society on March 25 and 26, 10 am to 4:30 pm both days, with the Chicago Botanic Garden being our host.

Hope to see you there!
Susan Bradford, Show Chair
Northern Illinois Gesneriad (Orchid) Society



Upcoming 2017 Programs

May 16

Mark Spreyer

Who's Who of Owls

Mark will bring several owls and information about their habitat traits and the differences between owls. Mark presented to our club several years ago and the program was fantastic. Don't miss it!



June 20

Bill Scheffler

Pure Prairie Organics

Bill will talk on organic gardening using supplies from home vs. store bought chemicals. Bill is outstanding and will have our full attention. Be sure to come with your organic gardening questions.

July & August

TBA

Meeting Reminders:

We start with a social time at 6:15 PM, followed by a business meeting. Programs will begin at approximately 7:00-7:15 PM.

Our collection of paper goods for the Bloomingdale Township Pantry is on-going. Bring your items to the meeting.

Good Cheer-Member Concerns

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

***Jo Dabrowski**—Jo is back home after a short stay in the hospital and will attend our meetings when the weather gets warmer. I know she would appreciate a note of encouragement.



***Gail Brewer**—Now at Oak Trace Health Center, 250 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL 60516. Hopefully she will not be there long, but cards would be appreciated.

***In Remembrance**—We received word that long-time member, Norma Lamprech, passed away in early January at the age of 104. Gardening was her passion and she touched many lives.

I count on you the members to be the eyes and ears. Do not assume the 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](tel:630-980-8223)/Jaye408@gmail.com

From the March Farmer's Almanac Calender...



Creeping thymes are low-growing perennials perfect for filling in between rocks and stepping stones or mixing into a lawn. They tolerate foot traffic and have a wonderful fragrance when leaves are crushed underfoot.



Travel Corner

So many of you enjoy traveling and we are at an age when we want to see the things on our bucket list....and we hesitate to make plans....we second guess ourselves about a lot of issues, that may be holding us back, and therefore, stopping us from growing and enjoying a new experience.

This article is meant to enhance your desires to see more of His Good World created for us to enjoy! Let's begin by looking at the fears.....the 'what if' items that hold you back.

- 1 - 'What if' something happens to me health wise....before I leave....that's why you purchase travel insurance.....fear erased!
- 2 - 'What happens if' I become ill while on a trip....that's why you purchase travel insurance....fear erased!
- 3 - 'What happens if' my luggage is lost or I miss a connecting flight - that's why you purchase travel insurance...fear erased!
- 4 - 'What happens if' my sibling, who is about my same age, or my daughter or son, or grandchild, becomes ill before I depart for my trip....and they need me? I have elderly parents....how I can travel....they might need me? That's why you purchase travel insurance.
- 5 - 'What happens if' something comes up, and I have to work, due to unforeseen problems at my job....I could be without a job.....? That's why you purchase travel insurance and include the 'job option' section of the policy.

All of the above reasons...not to venture past your front door are valid! However, there are travel insurance companies that will 'cover you and your traveling companions' for all and any of the above events! You need to insure that your funds, allocated, to the enjoyment of travel, are covered and protected as you scratch off the places that you want to see from your bucket list!

Travel Techniques represents several travel insurance companies....and will offer the appropriate coverage for your trip...when you are ready to book. Travel insurance also covers any pre-existing medical conditions....so don't let that hold you back either...just be sure to purchase the travel insurance within 14 days of doing your deposit for your trip.

My hope is that you will contact me, or your favorite travel agent, and begin the process to dispel any fears that might be holding you back from seeing the World. Your travel dollars can be protected....let's eliminate that fear today!

More travel tips in the following editions of The Trowel.

Submitted by Marilyn Dattilo - Owner
Travel Techniques
Serving in the Field of Travel Since 1966
IATA 14-535894 Phone 630-671-0750

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.....	Laura Sewall
*1st Vice President.....	Jennifer Moore
(Membership)	
*2nd Vice President.....	Mary Sue Fornari
(Programs)	
Program Committee.....	Linda Martin
	Sandy Kappeler
*Publicity.....	Akhila Meda
Publicity Committee	
Newsletter.....	Cathy Kreis
Website.....	Dan Vitacco
*Treasurer.....	Cheryl Svec
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	

March

*The splendor of the rose and
whiteness of the lily do not rob the
little violet of its scent nor the
daisy of its simple charm. If every
tiny flower wanted to be a rose,
spring would lose its
loveliness.*

—Therese of Lisieux