

The Trowel



President's Prose

Volume 5, Issue 2

Greetings Members and Friends!

It seems like such a short time since we last talked...but alas, it's June! The spring had a soggy start, to say the least, but the lawns look fabulous. I hope we can say the same in August!

Once again, the Bloomingdale Garden Club participated in the Memorial Day Veterans' Service at the St. Paul Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomingdale, donating the red, white and blue carnations to be placed on the head stones. If you've never been at this service, I highly recommend you attend. It's a wonderful tribute to our soldiers ~ past and present. From the War of 1812, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War and the Vietnam War, our dedicated and brave soldiers lay at rest in this tranquil place. Thank You to all members of our Armed Forces who make sacrifices for us every day!

And how about the Annual Plant Sale this year? THE BEST EVER!!! Thank you EVERYONE for all the hard work and effort! I personally want to say that this is one of the BEST and MOST FUN plant sales I've ever participated in. Our new vendor is fabulous! Everything just seemed to be so smooth this year...and Linda Kunesh will outline all the details later in this newsletter. Great Job!!! I'd also like to thank the Plant Sale Committee for indulging me on the introduction of accepting credit cards this year. It was a tough sell at the start, but in doing so, the day of sales dollars collected from credit cards were over 30%!

I see bigger things coming!

A couple of notes: the BGC will participate in three (3) upcoming dates for the Bloomingdale Farmers' Market to be held at the corner of Schick and 3rd in Bloomingdale. 6/22/17, 7/6/17, 8/3/17. Please support the local vendors! Also, the regular August meeting (8/15/17) for our club will be held at my home in Bloomingdale! I look forward to seeing all of you on the deck/patio! (Details to follow).

As we head into summer, I wish you all a Safe and Happy 4th of July, Happy Plantings and Little Weeding!

Until we speak again,

Laura Sewall



*Working in the garden...gives me a profound feeling
of inner peace*

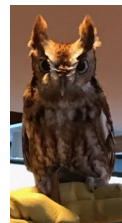
Ruth Stout

Spring Meetings

March - Drew Carhart from the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting spoke to us about how the increase of nighttime lighting has impacted nature. If we do add lighting to our home and gardens, be sure that it is pointing down and not up.

April - Linda Kunesh and the Plant Sale Committee got us all prepped and organized for the May plant sale. Then we heard from **Kim White of the DuPage Monarch Project**. Kim encouraged us to plant Monarch habitat plants in our gardens. Turns out our area is one of the last in the breeding cycle that begins when the first generation arrives in the southern US after leaving central Mexico.

May—Mark Spreyer—Who's Who of Owls Mark brought 5 different birds of prey: 2 Screech Owls, 1 Barn Owl, 1 Barred Owl and a hawk. Did you know that owls really don't say "Hoo"? It was a fun evening with a record 56 in attendance, including many guests.



Stepping Stones Luncheon and Fashion Show



Club member Bev Petrosius has been actively involved with Stepping Stones for several years. The garden club has supported this organization with our plant sale profits. Bev asked Joyce Basel to help with two "Africa" themed tables at a recent fundraiser. Joyce shared pieces from her private collection of various African animals and busts of tribe members.

Attending this event, left to right, Joyce Basel, Carole Lockerbie, Roberta Pulido and Akhila Meda (not pictured).

They enjoyed a delicious lunch, a fashion show and an opportunity to do a little "shopping" from the various vendors in attendance. Note Joyce's pretty "chapeau"! The lady selling hats was not only delightful, she was also quite persuasive!



Plant Sale Gathers Used Tools for GardenWorks Project

A note of thanks from Tina Loral of the Garden Works Project.

Big thanks to the Bloomingdale Garden Club who collected used tools for donation to our resource center at their annual plant sale. We appreciate the work you do to promote gardening and community connections!

Left to Right: Akhila Meda, Laura Sewall, Jeff Dengler, Linda Kunesh, Kathryn Kacalo, Henia Sullivan, Kelly Vitacco,



2017 Bloomingdale Garden Club Plant Sale A Huge Success!

Once again, Bloomingdale Garden Club members, their families, and friends turned out in great numbers to support this year's Flower & Plant Sale. No doubt a number of changes & improvements impacted our Sale and helped to net us a **profit of \$7,400!!!** We had 70 pre-sale orders that totaled \$9,619 in sales; \$10,778 were collected from 279 purchases during the days of sale!

Here are some of the highlights:

New vendor, Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse, was a joy to work with and provided quality plants! Except for the geraniums and rudbeckia the plants appeared to be exceptional!

Thirty-seven (37) current and one former Club member personally contributed their time over the course of many days! That translates to a participation rate of 71%!!! (Like last year, 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!?!

We had an amazing 26 people help unload and inventory the plants prior to pulling the pre-sale orders. Getting the plants in the early afternoon on Thursday was wonderful!

Most of the pre-sale orders were picked up Thursday evening (due to the impending frost for later that night). Those who submitted pre-sale orders also could "shop early" when they picked up their order. (Another great reason to submit a pre-sale order!) This allowed us to open on time (9 a.m. on Friday) and without dedicating people to check pre-sale orders while we were trying to sell flowers at the start of our sale!

Hundreds of perennials were donated, potted, and sold for \$1,503! This is the greatest profit in our Club's history regarding perennials! We also were able to donate approximately \$300 in left over perennials to the Park District. And there were many positive comments that we had more varieties of perennials than we've had in past years.

Bloomingdale Park District allowed us to have our Perennial Potting Party at the Maintenance Building the week before the Sale (and graciously allowed us to reschedule the Potting Party date). This was a huge contribution to us as once again, we braved the cold and rain! Park District staff even turned on the heat and allowed us to set out the plants by the building. Thus, no need to transport the perennials from someone's home. Further, the building was ready for us by 7 a.m. on Thursday, the day before our Sale began.

Tables rented to us by Rental Max again were at a reduced cost. And we were delighted that Rental Max purchased new lighter-weight tables! Table cloths were generously donated by Lydia Modugno, former Garden Club member. Thanks, Lydia!

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

2017 Plant Sale Continued

Master Gardeners were on-site throughout Friday and Saturday to assist customers and to answer gardening questions. They also supported our efforts by being "customers."

Jennifer Moore and Kathryn Kacalo provided sandwiches for us on Thursday. Cathy Gall and Linda Kunesh provided sloppy Joes on Friday. Esther Ahlrich provided the delicious pulled pork for lunch on Saturday. MANY club members provided additional goodies & treats. Cathy Kreis kept all of this organized! PLUS, we were able to share our delicious food with Park District staff that worked so hard to clean out the building for our Sale!!!

Publicity efforts by Helen Price and Akhila Meda resulted in notices about our Flower & Plant Sale being published in the *Daily Herald* multiple times each month, beginning in January! Further, their efforts were supported by Cathy Gall's postings on Facebook & Dan Vitacco's postings on our website. All were awesome! We also had amazing publicity support from the Park District.

"Salesmanship Awards" go to Elda Tymann (perennials), Linda Martin (raffles) and Mary Sue Fornari (Wedgies). If you didn't see them in action, you missed some fun and awesome efforts on their parts!

Our partnership with Joe Potts and the Bloomingdale Park District continues to strengthen and contributes so much to the success of our Sale.

We took advantage of new technology and the fact that people tend to use "plastic" (i.e., credit cards) rather than cash or check for purchases. Result? 58 sales totaling \$3,415! A huge thanks to Laura Sewall, Akhila Meda, and Cheryl Svee for pushing us to consider and try this new option for payment!

The Container Gardens, Edythe Griffin's beautiful paintings, and a birdbath netted \$281 from Raffles!

Yard Art, Wedgies, & additional birdbaths brought in \$238!

Our Flower and Plant Sale supported our Plot to Plate Community Garden, WINGS, the GardenWorks Project, area churches, and of course our charitable endeavors that we determine in November of each year.

Be sure to check out the slide show on our website, www.bloomingdalegardenclub.org for an array of photos taken by Helen Price and posted by Dan Vitacco! Thanks to both of them. Despite our very serious faces, we had a blast!

The Plant Sale Committee will de-brief later this month. If you have ideas or suggestions for next year's Sale, please contact one of the Committee members listed below.

The 2017 Sale was a HUGE success because of all of you, cooperation with the Park District, and wonderful plants from Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse. It was so heartening to hear from many people that they had fun! Thanks to all for your dedication, help, and support.

Your 2017 Plant Sale Committee: Joyce Basel, Cathy Gall, Kathryn Kacalo, Linda Kunesh, Akhila Meda, Jennifer Moore, Laura Sewall, Henia Sullivan, & Kelly Vitacco.

Photo Contest



I hope everyone had a chance to look at the photo contest board of the 2016 plant sale. Once again we had some great entries and it was difficult to narrow down the winners. It is fun to get ideas of how other people plant their pots and gardens.

Remember to get out there and take pictures for this year's photo contest. New this year is a vegetable/fruit garden category.

Maybe this year you could be one of the winners.
Carole Lockerbie

Midwest Plants for Monarchs

Here are 5 plants suitable for our area:

Butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*)
Common milkweed (*A. syriaca*)
Poke milkweed (*A. exaltata*)
Swamp milkweed (*A. incarnate*)
Whorled milkweed (*A. verticillata*)

Birdsandblooms.com
May Extra 2017



If Your Garden Hose Could Talk

Here is what it would say:

I hate sunbathing! Store hoses in a shady place. Prolonged exposure to UV rays can cause those made of PVC to become brittle or crack. Some rubber hoses can soften in the sun, leaving behind residue on your hands or the sidewalk.



I work better with a buddy. To work more effectively, connect it to an adjustable nozzle or a water wand. This will let you control the flow.

Reel me up, please. Cracks usually result from a hose getting run over by a car or a lawn mower— or being put away with kinks in it. Make sure to wind yours smoothly around a reel after every use.

Don't forget to drain me. Water can stay trapped in a hose, especially if you're using a nozzle attachment. When that water expands in the heat, it can weaken or burst the hose. Before storing, turn the spigot off and give one last spray to get all the H₂O out.

The shorter one is often best. Since extra-long hoses can reduce water pressure, avoid buying one that's longer than you need. If you're not sure of the ideal length, buy two smaller hoses and connect them when you want to reach the farthest parts of your yard.

Sometimes holes are a good thing. For flower beds or a newly planted tree, try a soaker hose, which is designed with tiny holes in it. The holes let water trickle out slowly, drenching the soil down to a plant's roots—a more efficient system than standard watering.
HGTV Magazine

Wine Cork Birdhouse

Thought this was such a fun project from Birds and Blooms.

Materials:

Birdhouse About 50-60 corks
Band saw or serrated knife Outdoor-grade glue
Dremel Tool

Directions:

Buy or build your own birdhouse.

Cut the corks in half lengthwise with a table band saw or a sharp serrated knife, which will give you a nice, flat gluing surface. If you want to skip cutting the corks, you can use whole ones. You'll just need more corks and a little more glue per piece.

Glue the corks on in any pattern you like, trimming with a serrated knife as needed. Either wood or silicone glue will work.

Use a Dremel tool to round the corks around the entrance hole. A serrated knife will also work.

For the roof, glue the cork halves directly on top. If you're patient enough, use a serrated knife to slice the corks into disks for a pretty shingled effect.



Deadheading How-To

Garden Gate Magazine has the following tips:

1. **Pinch Florets** With plants like daylilies, which have lots of flowers on one stem, pluck off individual flowers as they fade. Or you can remove branches or clusters of flowers, like asters, leaving buds or branches below the cut to send out more blooms.
2. **Remove Spent Stems** Shasta daisies and many other perennials produce one flower per stem. Cut that stem to the ground after it blooms. And after you've pinched all the flowers off a daylily stem, cut the whole thing off at the base.
3. **Shear** Some perennials, such as "Moonbeam" coreopsis, produce so many flowers over the entire plant that you can't remove them individually. It's easier to simply shear the entire plant within a couple of inches of the ground after the main flush of flowers finishes.



In the Spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.

Margaret Atwood

Fu-Mei's Flowers

Member, Fu-Mei Thrun, has a beautiful garden and welcomes visitors.
Here are some photos taken of her tree peonies and poppies.



off the mark

by Mark Parisi



Upcoming 2017 Programs 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 18 Charles & Karen Lawrence Honey Bees & Pollination

With more than 40 years of beekeeping behind them, this couple are a wonderful resource for us and will share a wealth of knowledge. Charles is a director for the American Beekeeping Federation. Karen writes for the American Bee Journal and other newspapers.

August 15 Garden Party at Laura Sewall's

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.

Plot-to-Plate Garden Starts Its 3rd Season

During January the Plot-to-Plate committee met to begin planning for the 2017 growing season. Committee members are Joyce Boryla, Kathy Mikutis, Cheryl Svec, and Gail Sanders.

We used the layout from the 2016 garden and rotated crops one section. Changes were made to eliminate or reduce those plants that we did not feel were successful (Brussel sprouts) and add a few new ones (cabbage, collard greens, and winter squash). From the plant sale we ordered basil, eggplant, parsley, peppers (green, red, & hot), thyme, tomatoes (big beef, early girl, roma, cherry, 2 different heirloom types), and zinnias. Pat Kosmach, a Master Gardener, offered to start cabbage, collard greens, cucumbers, kale, lettuce, Swiss chard, and winter squash. The rest of the plants would be started from seed or purchased.

On April 25th the committee members met at the garden plot to lay out the grid and plant cool weather crops - beets, cabbage, carrots, collard greens, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, radish, and spinach. A month later on May 27th, the committee along with new member Eileen Spaman and Master Gardener Pat Kosmach completed the planting. See the garden layout below to see what was added. The very first harvest was a small bag of lettuce and radishes taken to the food pantry on May 30th.

green peppers	green beans	Tomatoes (heirloom)	Basil parsley thyme red peppers
Potatoes cabbage	cucumbers	Tomatoes (big beef)	eggplant
acorn squash	sugar snap peas lettuce radish butternut squash	Tomatoes (early girl)	Swiss chard kale spinach carrots collard greens
hot peppers jalapeno thai hot peppers	sugar snap peas lettuce radish zucchini	Tomatoes 1 cherry 3 roma	Onions beets



4/25
Planting

5/27
Planting



5/27 Planting Crew

L-R: Kathy Mikutis, Eileen Spaman,
Cheryl Svec, Pat Kosmach, Joyce Boryla

5/30
First Harvest



**Article Continues on
Next Page**

Plot-to-Plate Continued....

Once again this year we are asking club members to weed and water the garden. You are asked to sign up for one week when you will be responsible for those chores. The committee will be taking care of the harvesting and donating to the food pantry. We still need help. You can sign up at a meeting or contact Gail Sanders at sandersgvjp@comcast.net or [630 690-9468](tel:6306909468). A list of available dates is given below. Thank you for helping.

May 28th - Gail Sanders

June 18 - Jennifer Moore

July 9 - Jennifer Moore

July 30

August 20

September 10

October 1

June 4 - Cheryl Svee

June 25 - Jeff & Kathy Schroder

July 16 - Joyce Basel

August 6 - Jennifer Moore

August 27

September 17

October 8

June 11 - Carole Lockerbie

July 2 - Cathy Kreis

July 23

August 13

September 3

September 24

October 15

Family and Friends Day in the Garden at DuPage Care Center (DPCC)

Garden Club Members are Invited!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 23, 1-3 p.m. DPCC's Resident Gardeners and Master Gardeners will host a Family and Friends Day in the Garden. All Bloomingdale Garden Club members are welcome! DPCC is located at 400 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton. Park behind the building in any space designated for volunteer or visitor. Enter under the maroon canopy and obtain a visitor's badge. Someone will direct you to the Secret Garden.

Questions? Contact Linda Kunesh at kunesh310@comcast.net or 630-306-7854.

Garden Club Members Plant at DuPage Care Center (DPCC)

Club members Henia Sullivan, Kathy Mikutis, Jennifer Moore, Helen Price, and Linda Kunesh planted flowers our Club donated to DPCC. The planting took place on Sunday, May 21, rescheduled due to rain on Saturday. Residents, their families, and staff have commented that the Secret Garden is looking beautiful!

Thanks, Bloomingdale Garden Club!



2017 Plant Sale Photos



L-R: Laura Sewall, Henia Sullivan, Cathy Gall

Tons of Perennials



L-R: Joyce Basel and Linda Kunesh checking the list!



Jennifer Moore with Coleus



Chris Magnatowski with Basel



Marilyn Dattilo with Coleus



L-R: Art Dattilo, John Gall and Chris Brewer unloading the truck



L-R: Bobbi Pulido and "Becks"



More 2017 Plant Sale Photos



Beautiful Flowers Everywhere!



Cathy Kreis and Henia Sullivan planting up the raffle pots.



Good Cheer-Member Concerns

***George Holtz**—George continues his rehab care at Manor Care, 1920 Nerge Rd, Rm 122, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007. Cards would be appreciated.



***Vivian Krotz**—Vivian continues to have weekly treatments for her blood cancer. Vivian is not able to drive anymore so a visit, phone call or note would give her some cheer.

***Jane Czyzewski**—Jane also is no longer able to drive. I know she would appreciate a note, visit or a phone call.

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/Jaye408@gmail.com



Joyce Boryla and Helen Price, along with three other former Jewel Osco employees, did some volunteer work for the Northern Illinois Food Bank. They sorted Valencia oranges for a 3 hour shift. The food bank is always looking for more volunteers. Perhaps we could get a group together from the garden work and help out?

Travel Corner

What does MCT mean? Those letters refer to Minimum Connecting Time --- that's the legal connecting time needed between two flights! Some of my clients will ask me.....when they have a connecting flight.....if they really have enough time to get from one flight to the next! The answer is - yes - as the legal connecting time is established by the air carrier providing your flight arrangements to you.

Another issue that you won't see very often now - is the word ARUNK --- it means 'arrival unknown'....well, unknown, just to the airline! For example - if you are arriving at Chicago/O'Hare on the 18th of May from NYC.....and your complete itinerary shows that you are departing from Milwaukee Airport for NYC on the 1st of June.....your planned itinerary might show the letters, 'ARUNK' - meaning how you are traveling from Chicago to Milwaukee is not known to the airline that you will be traveling on to return to NYC. There is no obligation to provide that information to the airline, as they will not accept responsibility for your 'surface travel' between those two cities - Chicago and Milwaukee!

On your next airline ticket.....take a look at the Base Fare.....and the amount of taxes.....paid for your ticket! You might be very surprised to see that almost half of your airfare is in the cost of the taxes imposed when you fly! There's no getting around those taxes!

Let me know if you have any travel related questions.....I would try to answer them via The Trowel, or via e-mail. You can reach me at traveltech@att.net or at 630-671-0750.

Always consider travel insurance....even for a non refundable airline ticket.....it is very inexpensive should you need to cancel a trip! We make plans, and God Smiles!

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.

2017 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
Plot-To-Plate.....	Gail Sanders
*Denotes Executive Board	



*Kind hearts are the
garden, kind thoughts
are the roots, kind words
are the blossoms, kind
deeds are the fruits.*

John 'Ruskin