

The Trowel



Volume 5, Issue 3

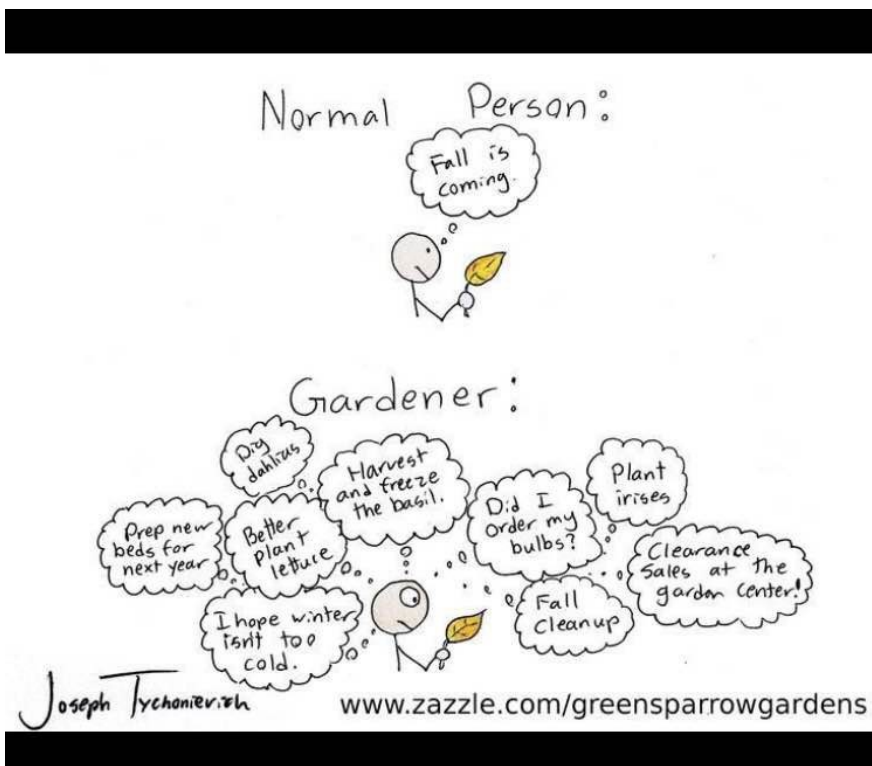
We may think Fall is here because of the lower temperatures, but no, no, there is much growing season left. Many of the vegetables we grow only begin to come into their own once the nights become cooler. Kale and Swiss Chard are perfect examples.

It is also time to plant your garlic. Remember to either plant a bulb from this summer's harvest or buy your bulb from a garden center. Take apart the cloves and plant them 6" apart, about 2" deep. The greens may start to grow before frost, but you just give them a few inches of mulch and they will winter through nicely.

Did you know???? Performing 30 minutes of general gardening chores can burn 170 calories! The more fall leaves you've got, the better too. Two hours of raking and bagging leaves will burn an astonishing 520 calories (Birds & Blooms Extra). Bring on the yummy fall desserts after a good workout. Perhaps even think about making some spicy Bloody Mary Mix with all of your tomatoes.

Look forward to seeing you all , Tuesday, September 19th.

Jennifer Moore - Membership
Catherine Kreis-Newsletter Publisher



*“Autumn is
the second
spring when
every leaf is a
flower.”*

Albert Camus

Spring Meetings

June - Bill Scheffler - Once again, Bill captivated those in attendance with his vast knowledge of plant biology. I, for one, was sorry to have missed the presentation. I do have a copy of the handout he gave if anyone would like me to make a copy.

July - Charles & Karen Lorence presented their program on Honey Bees and Pollination. This couple have been beekeepers for many years and so enjoy their hobby/business and each other.

August - Laura Sewall opened up her home for a garden party. Please see separate article.



Club President Laura Sewall Opens Up Her Home!

Club members enjoyed a truly super evening at President Laura Sewall's gorgeous home on Tuesday evening. What a nice change - outside in the lovely garden area with perfect weather, or inside either the garden room or the main house - it was simply a lovely social time for everyone.



And you could not beat the wonderful treats that everyone contributed! There was a spicy chicken dip from Carole Lockerbie, several cheese offerings and at least three people delighted everyone with the tomato caprese salad picks! Watermelon, strawberries and fruit salad, as well as little yellow tomatoes from Joyce's garden were all enjoyed. Pat Frank brought a cake with a heavenly sauce and the deserts were as plentiful and as delicious as the rest. There was something for everyone and for those who missed this outing - we missed you too and wish you could have been there.

Laura apologized for the state of her vegetable garden but no one could blame her with everything on her plate at this time with moving her mother and still having all of us as her guests. We did all notice that her peony bushes were especially lush and pretty with no brown leaves etc. These are yellow peonies and apparently stay looking terrific right into the fall.

Laura, thanks for a perfect venue and a really lovely garden party for the club members. Those of us there truly enjoyed it and appreciate your hospitality and for those who missed it - maybe next year!!

Photo Contest is Now Open!!!

I don't know about anyone else, but this was so far not my best year for my annuals. However, with the cooler weather right around the corner, now is a good time to trim and tidy up our annuals. A good hair cut can do wonders for some plants. The photo contest will be taking either hard copies or digital photos until Oct 31st.

Please perk up your plants for some new photos for our contest. Hard copies can be mailed to:

Carole Lockerbie

C/O Bloomingdale Photo Contest

326 White Hall Terrace Bloomingdale IL 60108.

Digital photos can be emailed to Joyce Basel: joyceb@inbox.com



The Flower Garden Within Our Community Garden

The flower garden at the Community Gardens had a very late start but this week produced six or seven bunches of flowers to "Feed the Soul" ... these included sunflowers (the little ones), a beautiful array of colorful zinnia and marigolds. Each little bunch was tied with twine and sent away in water to the Roselle Food Kitchen on Tuesday morning.



This garden is meant to provide a little cheer to those folk who are not only in need of nourishment for the body, but also a little nourishment emotionally. It was planted early in the year but a number of the plantings simply did not do well. Seeding did the trick and zinnias bloomed in profusion. Also a number of the smaller sunflowers are blooming nicely. The big ones of course are being left for the birds and bees!!

Members from the Roselle Garden Club and Joyce Boryla from our Club have watered and weeded this garden through the summer. Joyce harvested the flowers and tied the bouquets, also providing the bucket for transport etc. and the Roselle ladies who were harvesting from their vegetable garden were delighted to take them to their food pantry.

At a meeting this week with two of the Roselle Garden Club members - both of whom have helped with the community garden flower section, I learned that several women who had visited the Roselle Food pantry for food for their families were quite overwhelmed by the idea that they could have them. I understand that one of them was close to tears, she said she had not had flowers in her house for so many years, she could hardly remember what it was like! This little gesture - the "food for the soul" - that we provided gave lots of joy to the recipients. Thanks to anyone who watered or weeded this summer - its really worthwhile.

We are hoping that we will harvest again before fall and that next year we will have a really full variety of beautiful blooms to give joy to people who need a little cheer.

Joyce Basel



DIY Basic Kitchen Cleanser

Scientists in Turkey found that basil oil helps kill germs like salmonella and *E.coli* that can cause food poisoning. Mix 10 drops of basil essential oil, 1/2 c. white vinegar and 1/2 c. water.

Rachel Ray Magazine—July/August 2017

HOW DID YOUR FLOWERS GROW?

The Plant Sale Committee would appreciate your feedback regarding which plants that you purchased at our Plant Sale that did well, and which plants didn't. Obviously they can't account for lack of water or sunshine, but they do want to know how your flowers grew. They'd also like to know which ones we should be sure to order again for next year.

Please send your feedback to Linda Kunesh at kunesh310@comcast.net. Thanks!

Bloomington Farmer's Market

The Bloomington Garden Club had a booth at the Farmers Market for 3 days this summer. Many thanks to committee members Carole Lockerbie (chairman), Joyce Boryla, Kathy Mikutis, and Cheryl Svec for their hard work in representing the club at the market. They endured searing heat and threatening storms in an effort to promote the Club and engage with the community.

BGC had several items for sale crafted by committee members along with fresh flowers, herbs and perennials from members' gardens. And, of course, wedgies! The Club continued to support the DuPage Care Center by offering ceramics and notecards made by residents of DPCC. Informational pamphlets were also available to patrons of the market.

By summer's end, BGC earned \$165 in profits on items sold. Excess perennials were donated to St. Paul Church. Thank you to all club members who came out to support the BGC!



L-r: Cheryl Svec, Carol Lockerbie, Kathy Mikutis



Linda Kunesh and Henia Sullivan visited the garden of Rudy Damos. Thanks for sharing these beautiful flower pictures.





Putting Speaker Info to the Test

On June 20, we had the pleasure to hear Bill Scheffler of Pure Prairie Organics speak to our club about organic gardening methods. I feverishly took notes best I could, but before too long my brain was on information overload. However, a few important nuggets made it into my notes and stuck in my mind.



Fast forward a week or so, and I'm out in my vegetable garden, and what do I find? The dreaded Japanese beetle (at least a dozen or more) making a meal out of my basil. Bill came to mind: "Insects are a phosphorus deficiency, disease a calcium deficiency." After depositing the beetles into a container of soapy water, I located my notes: *8 ounces of coke (or other soda containing phosphorus) to one gallon of water. Put in a spray bottle and spray affected plants, preferably in the evening.*

I go out and buy a bottle of coke and a spray bottle, make the mix and spray the basil. The next day I check and there are only 2-3 beetles on the basil. Into the bucket they go and I spray again that evening. Check the following day and the little buggers have moved on to the green beans! Ugh! So, I spray the entire garden. I do this for the next 3-4 days, again finding only a few beetles each day. Then, I went out of town for 5 days, worried what I'd find upon my return. I was happy to discover once again only a few beetles hanging around and just a few lacy leaves on a green bean plant—the basil looked great. So, I sprayed again every few days for a week or so and chased those beetles away. My basil and green beans were saved! I think this remedy works great!

Cheryl Svec

Upcoming 2017 Programs

September 19

**Joseph Wells
Mariano's**

Joseph is known for his holiday decorations. He is going to talk about the Mariano's flower department and show us a couple of holiday decorations and flower decoration that can be made with simple stuff. Joseph will also give us an overall of the food store itself.

October 17

Kathi Rose

Kaleidoscope of Floral Design

Kathi will present various floral design styles with tips and techniques. Her presentations are fun and educational. Join us not only to learn about making the beautiful arrangements, but you may also become one of the lucky winners of her floral creations!

November 21

**Christmas Craft for West Suburban
Care Center**

**Voting on our Annual Philanthropic
Donations**

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.



Don't forget to clean, sharpen or replace your garden tools before storing them away for the winter. You will be all ready to go come spring!!!

Fall Chores Yield Spring Rewards

Birds & Blooms Extra magazine shared these tasks that we should all be doing now to make our spring-time workload lighter.

Fertilize the Lawn—Apply a low-nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer to the lawn before the ground freezes. Grass puts down roots until the ground freezes, so fertilizing now encourage root growth and reduces the risk of disease. And come spring, the only lawn chore you'll have is mowing!

Fall is a good time to lay down shredded leaves for mulch. Use

a mower with a bag to collect them.

Adding this layer of protection will

keep the soil moist and help to

moderate winter temperature fluctuations. The

benefits of fall mulch to garden beds are just about

endless. Shredded leaves provide nutrient-rich organic matter to the soil, making it more drought-tolerant and less friendly to weeds, diseases and pests.



Plant bulbs once the nighttime temperature drops to a consistent 40-50 degrees. Bulbs like tulips, daffodils, crocus and alliums all need a full winter in the ground. Plant the bulbs two to three times their height deep and then fertilize. One of the reasons tulips, daffodils, crocus and other bulbs are so popular is that they pop up at the first sign of spring, needing little to no maintenance. You can just sit back and enjoy.

Cut back disease and insect infested perennials after a hard freeze. Cutting them so only an inch

remains will save that space and remind you of the

plant come spring. Also pull out any spent veggie

plants and herbs. And don't forget to get rid of the

weeds! Clearing your perennial bed of disease and

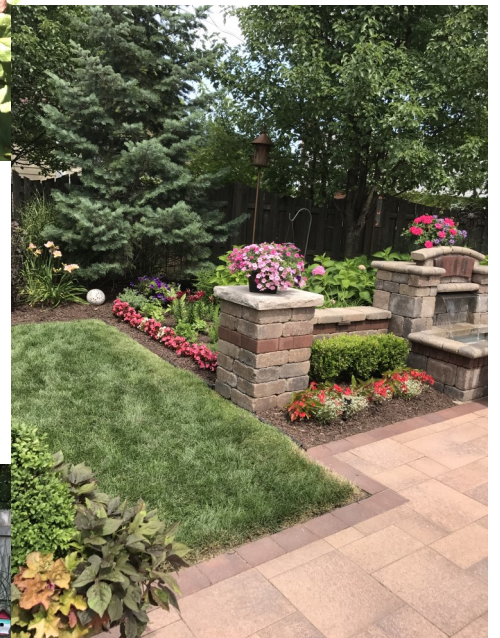
insect infected plants will lessen the chance of these

issues persisting in your garden. Save the final clean-

up for late winter when you are anxious to get into the garden, weeks before planting.

Elmhurst Garden Walk

Akhila Meda, Henia Sullivan, Jennifer Moore, Linda Kunesh and Kathryn Kacalo spent a lovely afternoon touring several gardens in Elmhurst. Here are some of the great photos that were taken that day..



Good Cheer-Member Concerns

George Holtz

George is now home with support staff. All cards of encouragement and support should be sent to :167 Royce Drive, Bloomingdale, IL 60108-1926. He still cannot swallow and speech is difficult.



**Remember our Shut-Ins
with a phone call, note or a visit:
Jane Czyzewski and Vivian Krotz.**

****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, Good Cheer

630-980-8223/Jaye408@gmail.com

Travel Corner

Many special offers....how do you know if you are getting the best deal for your travel dollars? What a deep question that is!!! There are so many websites to visit when you are ready to spend some of your travel dollars on a vacation. The time spent researching a vacation is worth the effort it takes to make sure you have planned the type of vacation that you and your family want to enjoy!

Cruises are typically the most affordable considering all that they offer. There are cruises to take almost anywhere in the world, and the different types of ships....that ought to be part of your consideration as well. I've been an agent for over 35 years...and for sure there is a common thread that runs with my most experienced clients when it comes to travelling by ship! They don't want a large ship....and they don't want to be seated with a lot of people who will be talking travel...especially about their own past travel experiences! This one aspect has changed the most over the past 10 years! People want to enjoy their own families or traveling companions. They don't want nor appreciate 'competition' with regard to travel experiences! Clients typically ask for the 'my time dining' experience - meaning they can eat when they are hungry! Most travelers don't want to meet with the same group of people for each meal. They tend to welcome some diversity each day!

There is a special offer for 'The Legendary Blue Danube River Cruise' - free round trip air - for booking the 6-16 of September 2018 --- can you plan that far in advance? Always take the insurance, whether from the tour operator or from an independent insurance firm...we make plans and God Smiles! Those truly great 'deals' are often a good year away...and the tour operator wants a commitment in order to offer a special discount to the traveling public! I can see many exceptional offers in the future! Make your own 'bucket list' and strive for a good trip every two years or so! Keep in mind, not everyone is a 'travel type' person....some people enjoy home life and truly prefer attractions that are close by....it's amazing, we are all uniquely made! There are day trips, short trips, senior trips...any variety of trips to enjoy! Life is special...enjoy it while you can!

Submitted by Marilyn Dattilo - Owner
Travel Techniques
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Hausermann's 25th Annual Orchid Fest

September 22-24, 2017

8:00am—5:00pm Friday & Saturday

10:00am—3:00pm Sunday

Villa Park, Illinois



Visit their website for further information.

[Www.chicagolandorchidfest.com](http://www.chicagolandorchidfest.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

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
Hospitality Committee.. Kelly Vitacco, Akhila Meda
*Recording Secretary.....Joyce Boryla
*Ways & Means.....Linda Kunesh
*Corresponding
Secretary.....Joyce Basel
Plot-To-Plate.....Gail Sanders
Photo Contest.....Carole Lockerbie
Memorial Garden.....Joyce Basel
Farmer's Market.....Carole Lockerbie
*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.



*Live in each season as it
passes: breathe the air,
drink the drink, taste the
fruit and resign yourself
to the influences of each.*

Henry David Thoreau