

The Trowel

Volume 5 , Issue 4

Greetings Members and Friends!

I hope all of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with family & friends. I am very thankful for many things in my life this year, especially for your patience in allowing me to 'get my feet wet' while working with you and serve as President of your club. I will admit though, I am really thankful for this fabulous weather we've had through November. Too bad we can't keep it around until February! But alas, we'll be donning the mittens and boots soon...



November's Program is traditionally the craft project we do for the West Suburban Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bloomingdale. And this year's program didn't disappoint. Over 50 table top decorations were made with snow, poinsettias, holly, candy canes & BLING. Thanks to our Club's elves, Joyce Basel, Jennifer Moore, Linda Kunesh & Carole Lockerbie, who donated an afternoon to come to my



home and help assemble the kits. And a big Thank You to all the members that did the assembly! It was a sea of red, green and glitz. Such fun!

And, of course, Thank you Chris Magnatowski for helping me deliver these to the center. The Staff at West Suburban loved them. In fact, a couple of the staff commented that they wanted to 'snag' one for their Christmas table at home!

Looking on to business for the coming year, we have Three Board positions that are coming to term and will be voted on in January. First up is MEMBERSHIP, 1st Vice President. Jennifer Moore currently holds the position but is ready to retire. Second is RECORDING SECRETARY, currently held by Joyce Boryla, also retiring. Third, is WAYS AND MEANS CHAIR, 3rd Vice President, currently held by Linda Kunesh. Linda is looking to semi-retire. She is willing to run again, but would love it if someone took the reins & she would be there mentoring all along the way. All three of these ladies are fabulous at what they do & we say THANK YOU Ladies!

My hope is that there are members among us that are willing to step up to fill these positions and help shape the future of our club! I've included a brief job description of these positions later in the newsletter. Feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions.

January is also the Club's Business Meeting. Along with the usual agenda, we've moved the 'Annual Donation' distribution from November to the January. Won't you please make it a point to attend the January meeting to vote and provide input on the donations? If you have an organization in mind that you feel would benefit from our help, please submit the name & the reason you feel the Bloomingdale Garden Club can make a difference.

Finally, as we head into the holiday season, may you find Peace and Joy. I so enjoyed seeing many of you at the Christmas Party December 12th. Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy, Healthy New Year! All the Best, Laura Sewall, President

*"Be merry, be merry all, with holly
dress the festive hall."* —William Robert Spencer

Fall Meetings

September— Joseph Wells, from Mariano's Fresh Market, shared his delightful talent of flower arranging. He encouraged us to use simple vessels and also shared tips for preparing the flowers for the arrangement. It was interesting to note that he began at Mariano's when he was 15; worked his way up and is self-taught in floral design.



October—Kathi Rose, Kaleidoscope of Floral Design. Kathi prepared a wonderful array of seasonal arrangements. Like Joseph, she shared some wonderful tips and also added some fun “bling” to make the arrangements really sparkle. Almost everyone in attendance went home with an arrangement of some kind.



November— We made a centerpiece craft for the West Suburban Care Center and Kathi Rose helped us create a personal holiday arrangement for ourselves.



Left to right: Gail Sanders, Joyce Basel and others, Cathy Kreis, Sandy Kappeler, Mary Sue Fornari



End of Season Community Garden Gathering



Community & Giving Gardeners, Master Gardeners, Itasca Park District Garden Club members, Bloomingdale Garden Club members, & families.



*“Announced by all the trumpets of the sky,
arrives the snow.”* -Ralph Waldo Emerson

2018 Open Board Position Job Descriptions

Recording Secretary:

- Attend all Club and Board meetings
- Record the minutes for club meetings, the annual January Business meeting and Executive Board meetings
- Type up minutes and submit to appropriate group
- File a copy of minutes for each meeting (electronic and paper)
- Maintain all records until end of term
- Pass all materials to incoming Recording Secretary

Membership, 1st Vice President:

- Perform the duties of the President in the absence of, or at the request of
- If the office of the President becomes vacant, the 1st Vice President becomes President
- 1st Vice President acts as Membership Chairperson and maintains monthly meeting attendance records
- Membership Chair shall process all applications, handle membership inquiries and correspondence and prepare appropriate reports
- Membership Chair maintains a current roster
- Membership Chair communicates to the entire membership via email/website on upcoming meetings, events and general news

Ways and Means Chair, 3rd Vice President:

- Directs all fundraising activities for the Club
- Acts as Plant Sale Committee Chair
- Detailed responsibilities of Plant Sale Chair:
 - Solicit 6-8 Club members to serve on the Flower & Plant Sale Committee
 - Develop agenda (with input from Committee members), conduct meetings, write up, & distribute meeting notes for Committee members, January – June.
 - Serve as the liaison with the professional grower, currently Sunrise Greenhouse, Grant Park, IL

(Continued on Next Page)

2018 Open Board Position Job Descriptions (Continued)

Ways and Means Chair, 3rd Vice President: detailed responsibilities continued...

Serve as the Garden Club's liaison to the Bloomingdale Park District regarding Sale location, logistics, needs, and what the Park District will provide to the Garden Club. Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Bloomingdale Garden Club and the Park District. Share with the President of the Garden Club and the Executive Director of the Park District (via Joe Potts, Director of Parks and Planning). Shepherd through the official "sign-offs" for the final version.

With the assistance of a sub-committee of the Flower & Plant Sale Committee, determine flowers to be ordered from the grower.

Develop & maintain records of previous years' sales regarding what was ordered, how much, how well it sold, & when it sold to determine what to order for the current season.

Develop inventory recording sheets to use throughout the Sale

Develop Schedule of "Who Will Be at the Plant Sale." Distribute at the April Garden Club meeting to identify specific times Club members will commit to work. Call Club members that do not sign up at the April meeting to get their commitments.

Support Committee Members' Tasks regarding Publicity, Pre-Sale Orders, Potting Party & Perennials, Equipment Needed, Set Up for Sale, Raffles, Food, Signage at Sale, Signage around the Community, etc.

Arrange for rental and delivery of tables for the Sale. (Current supplier is Rental Max, Roselle.)

Serve as the liaison with the University of Illinois Extension DuPage Master Gardeners. Send a detailed email message to scheduled Master Gardeners regarding welcome, expectations, and their roles to support the Sale

Identify potential "recipients" of left over plants with the Committee. Coordinate distribution of left over plants following the Sale

Convene the Committee to de-brief how the Sale went, what went well, suggestions for improvement, etc.

Submit articles for The Trowel regarding upcoming Sale, how the Sale went, and requesting feedback regarding what plants performed well and should be ordered for the following year; what plants did not perform well and may be considered to NOT order for the following year.

Develop an annual budget for needs/expenditures for the Flower & Plant Sale. Submit to the Committee for revisions/approval and then to the Executive Committee for approval/revisions.

A Group Visited the Ball Gardens Over The Summer

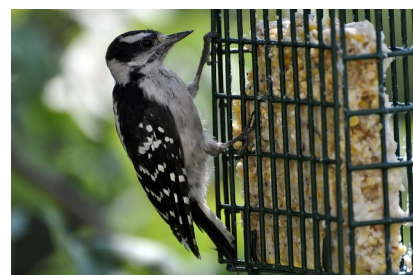


L-r: Akhila Meda, Henia Sullivan, Carol Lockerbie, Jennifer Moore, Cheryl Svee, Sandy Kappeler, Kathryn Kacalo, Jeff Schoder, Helen Price, Linda Kunesh and Kathy Schoder.

Don't Forget Our Feathered Friends this Winter.

Birds and Blooms (November 2017) offers this information:

Buy ready-made cakes and slide them right into a suet feeder. Or try this DIY version: Melt 1 cup shortening and 2 cups chunky peanut butter over low heat. Mix in 5 cups cornmeal. Pour into muffin tin. Sprinkle each cake with your choice of nuts, birdseed or dried berries. Cool in refrigerator. I have also spread it into a jelly roll pan before cooling. Then I cut it into cakes to fit my suet cage.



2018 Flower & Plant Sale

Please mark your calendar so you can support our Garden Club's efforts:

Thursday, May 3: Set Up for the Annual Flower & Plant Sale; Flowers arrive; Pre-Sale Order Pick Up (Times to be determined)

Friday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Sale Open to the Public

Chicago Garden Show is Coming!



Meet Our Show Partner

As we turn a new page to the 2018 Chicago Flower & Garden Show, we are thrilled to work with show partner [Bernie's Book Bank](#), a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase book ownership among at-risk children. Bernie's Book Bank will be featured in an enchanting garden that celebrates the rich experiences books and gardens bring to our lives. Look for author appearances and readings at the show, along with drop-off bins for book donations.

Extended Hours for 2018

The next chapter of the Chicago Flower & Garden show includes later hours during the week. Join us from Wednesday, March 14 through Saturday, March 17, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 18, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Special **Spring Fling** tickets, available Wednesday through Saturday, offer an opportunity to experience the show between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. for only \$10! Plus, there will be special evening programming including a Wedding Expo, Craft Beer Tasting, culinary demonstrations, educational workshops and more!

Photo Contest Results

Many thanks to everyone who submitted photos for the annual photo contest. There were many magnificent submissions and the judges had a tough time selecting the winning photos. The results are:

1st Place - Bonni Rothbaum

2nd Place - Joyce Basel

3rd Place - Carole Lockerbie

Honorable Mentions: Marilyn Datillo, Bev Miotke, Helen Price, Cheryl Svee, Joyce Basel, Carole Lockerbie

Prizes are awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners (\$25, \$20, \$15 gift certificates, respectively, that may be redeemed at the 2018 BGC plant sale). All winning photos and honorable mentions will be displayed at the plant sale.



1st Place—Bonni Rothbaum



2nd Place—Joyce Basel



3rd Place—Carole Lockerbie



Honorable Mentions



IMPORTANT! COMMUNICATING WITH GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS

While we all may “yearn” for days gone by when we communicated by phone or in person, we, as a Garden Club need to face reality. It is NOT feasible for anyone to communicate with 50+ members via phone. Further, we have the incredible capability to communicate with one another via email.

That said, it really is disheartening and frankly disrespectful when at least 30% of our members do not respond to emails. Please commit to checking your email regularly (at LEAST) every 72 hours and respond by the deadlines as indicated. Thanks.

Upcoming 2018 Programs

January 16

Annual Business Meeting

We will be elections for a couple of executive board officers: First Vice-President—Membership, Recording Secretary and Ways and Means (Linda Kunesh has agreed to run again for this position).

We will also be determining the end of year philanthropic donations.

February 20

Dr. Erin Ducat

Garden/Back Safety/Fitness

March 20

Nancy Carroll

The Love of Hummingbirds

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.

Snowman Crossing

Here are some fun photos from the gathering at the library on November 26. Our new tree decorations look so pretty!



L to R: Georgette West, Akhila Meda, Carole Lockerbie, Jennifer Moore, Henia Sullivan, Cheryl Svec, Kathryn Kacalo, Joyce Basel, Helen Price and Bobbi Pulido





Congratulations to Joyce Boryla! She received a Senior Citizen Volunteer Award at the 21st Illinois TRIAD Conference Awards Ceremony on September 13. The award is designed to encourage law enforcement agencies to honor and recognize senior citizens as vital members of their department as well as essential community liaisons. Joyce has been a Senior Citizen volunteer since January 2012. (article taken from The Bloomingdale Almanac, December 2017 edition)

Plot to Plate 2017

The vegetables have all been picked and the garden has been cleaned up for the winter. This year the garden produced just over 310 pounds of vegetables that were donated to the Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry. Our donations included acorn squash, beets, cabbage, carrots, collard greens, cucumbers, eggplant green/purple/yellow beans, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, red/green/hot peppers, potatoes, radishes, tomatoes, spinach, Swiss chard, zucchini and herbs (basil, cilantro, dill, parsley, thyme).



We had weekly help from garden club members to weed and water the plot – Joyce Basel, Joe & Joyce Boryla, Maureen Gibson, Cathy Kreis, Linda Kunesh, Carole Lockerbie, Akhila Meda, Jennifer Moore, Gail Sanders, Jeff & Kathy Schoder, Eileen Spaman, Cheryl Svec, Barbara Weisenburger, and Beth Zollars. Planning, planting and harvesting was done by committee members Joyce Boryla, Kathy Mikutus, Gail Sanders, Cheryl Svec and Eileen Spaman.

There were some growth problems (especially on the west side of our plot). Based on the results of the soil test, it was recommended by the U of I Extension office that sulfur be added to the plot. Some was added this fall and more needs to be applied in the spring before planting.

Time to Get Your Nesting Boxes Ready!

My family and I went on a lovely hike near Dayton, Ohio over the Thanksgiving weekend. Their visitor's center was focusing on not only feeding the birds, but looking forward to their nesting needs come spring. Thought it would be fun to share their insights. Nesting Boxes (birdhouses) create a safe and easy place for birds to live.

- Install your birdhouse before the nesting season begins. Mid to late winter (late February is best for most geographic areas).
- Each special of bird has different nesting box requirements. Visit www.birds.cornell.edu/nestinginfo/nestboxref/construct to get nest box plans for a variety of species.
- Boxes built of untreated wood are best.
- Your box should not have a perch. Perches are unnecessary and allow invaders such as house sparrows access to the box.
- You can score the inside walls of the box with a knife or nail, which will help baby birds in reaching the exit hole when they are ready to leave the nest.
- The box should have drainage holes in the bottom, ventilation holes toward the top (but not in the roof, or water will leak in), and a hinged side to allow easy access for cleaning and monitoring the birdhouse.

National Wildlife Federation, Reston, VA



Good Cheer-Member Concerns

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



A new member, Barbara Weisenburger, will be at home over the holidays recouping from major surgery to her lower jaw. We wish her a speedy recovery so that she can get off of the liquid diet.

"A Note to Thank You", "Your kindness means the world to me.", "Thank you all for your expression of sympathy, prayers and the beautiful flowers in honor of my son, Eddie, Love Sandy"

Thank you, Sandy.

**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

Having just returned from a beautiful cruise up the coast of Norway - from Bergen to Kirkenes --- calling at 34 ports of call....and cruising past over 100 Fjords....I can fully attest to the magnificent coastal waterways of Norway! The most noticeable thing to me was the fresh, crisp, clean air of this area of the World! We sailed on the Polarlys Ship with the Hurtigruten Cruise Line - this is an expedition ship - and we did many adventurous excursions, including the King Crab Expedition - which allowed us to 'suit up' and enjoy a ride on a 'rib boat' to the site where the King Crabs are hoisted out of the sea, perfectly cooked in an outside kitchen, and eaten with our fellow ship mates, with much enjoyment! Not all cruise lines will offer this adventurous excursion! Hurtigruten Cruise Line is the most popular cruise line in Norway and while slightly more expensive, it is worth the extra cost. On an expedition voyage with Hurtigruten - there are no fancy dress up nights - no entertainment, other than a lecture series, which is most worthwhile, and there is no need for a Captain's dinner, as the Captain is visible to the passengers and dines with the passengers daily! The expedition team offers advice about the excursions you can participate in, the level of challenge for each excursion is explained in detail.

Art and I found every excursion perfect for us to participate in, with the exception of horseback riding! The World of Travel is truly your oyster to enjoy! Should you have any interest in visiting Norway you can go on line to the Hurtigruten Web Site, or contact me, Marilyn, at Travel Techniques. I will share information, and pictures of a most enjoyable experience! The people of Norway are incredibly welcoming. Hint: I visited a church in Tromso and asked about any women's cottage industry, which would naturally be knitting, and was directed to a church sponsored store, where women of the church knit scarves, sweaters, hats, mittens - you name it - all hand produced perfectly! There is no label put in their products, just a warm note, advising that your purchase will benefit those in need within the Tromso community! I love not shopping retail, and investing in the people and places I visit! My new sweater is perfect, and about 1/3 the cost of shopping retail!

St. Augustine has said, "The World is a Book, and those who do not travel, read but one page." He was a very wise man!

Wishing you safe travels - Marilyn
Travel Techniques - IATA 14-535894
Phone - 630-671-0750

Farewell to "Becks"...at the Other BGC!

About four years ago our Club was approached by a guy called Brian Becker (aka Becks) who was about to start a garden club in Berkeley but had very little idea on how to go about it. I met with him at Rooster's Bar and over beer (him) and wine (me), spent several hours chatting. He had been sent our way by "Moose" - remember him?- he used to work at the Bloomingdale Post Office and had a garden there that most of us admired.

Anyway, Becks and a few other folks in Berkeley had approached their council for property on which to build a Community Garden! And they were given a vacant lot adjacent to the local McDonald's and were eager to start growing vegetables etc. but had no idea how to get a garden club started. We covered a lot of ground that night ... how the Bloomingdale club was started 50+ years ago, the makeup of our membership, By Laws of the club and the value (or not) of membership in GCI, our annual plant sale etc. etc. ... and the fact that we all mostly concentrated on flower gardens!

Becks went back to his "members" with all of this and they immediately got going!! And wow!! did they ever get going! They got their ground tilled, compost brought it, individual beds laid out, water from somewhere, contacts with all kinds of people and companies to help, and they enjoyed support from the community and participated in everything that they could! What they achieved was nothing less than remarkable!!



L-R: Joyce Basel, Moose and Becks

And we stayed in touch! More than that, "Becks" became someone we could count on to arrive at 5.00am on the morning of our plant sale to help unload the trucks! to stay and help with special orders! and anything else we asked of him. Linda Kunesh and I continued to meet with him every now and then and we corresponded regularly.

And now Becks and his wife are moving to the Carolinas!! Linda and I attended the "farewell" party thrown for him by the Berkeley Garden Club last Sunday and we joined them in letting him know that he will not only be missed by his own club but he will be missed by us as well.

The Berkeley Garden Club (BGC) has had enormous success over the past four years with their community gardens and a huge part of that success is due to Becks' untiring resolve and energy. We at Bloomingdale Garden Club (whose community garden started after theirs) can learn a lot from them and we congratulate them on their success.

All good wishes to Becks for a happy and healthy new life in their new home. We hope that they stay in touch and that our paths cross again!

Joyce Basel

Christmas Party Photos

Thirty-33 of us enjoyed a delightful evening at Jameson's on December 12. Following a time of visiting with each other, we enjoyed a great meal. Then Linda Kunesh led us in the "White Elephant" gift exchange. As always, there were real interesting items that changed hands. Gus, the manager of Jameson's presented out senior members with \$25 gift cards for them to celebrate their birthdays in 2018. Thank you!



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.



*And now let us welcome
the new year, full of
things that have never
been.*

Rainer Maria Rilke