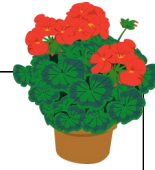


The Trowel



Volume 6 , Issue 2



A group of us got together June 5 to celebrate our most senior members with a wonderful luncheon at Jameson's Steakhouse; enjoying a heavenly cake and gorgeous floral centerpieces put together by Joyce Basel. Each of the attending seniors was able to take one of the centerpieces home. Below are some photos, the asterisks indicate a senior member.



Above l-r: Kathryn Kacalo, *Esther Ahlrich, Bobbi Pulido, Cathy Gall, Henia Sullivan and Linda Kunesh



Above l-r: Akhila Meda, Cathy Kreis and *Jane Czyzewski

Below l-r: *Jo Dabrowski, Sandy Kappeler, Mary Sue Fornari, *Vivian Krotz, Jennifer Moore and Linda Martin

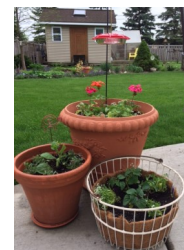


Below l-r: Cheryl Svec, Joyce Basel, Carole Lockerbie and Maureen Gibson

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." —Alfred Austin

Spring Meetings

March — Nancy Carroll gave a very enthusiastic program on how to entice hummingbird activity in our yards. Here is a photo of a vignette that I have put together using her suggestion of hanging a feeder in a large pot.



April—Linda Kunesh shared all that needed to be done to make out May Plant Sale a complete success.

May—Nancy Carroll visited our club again, this time sharing her secrets for summer fun in the garden. She even made some fresh basil pesto that she served over pasta. Yummy and smelled delicious. A good reminder: water early in the day and deeply at the base of your plants for the best results. Water too often and too shallow results in the plant's roots staying near the top of the soil rather than going down deeply.



Upcoming 2018 Programs

June 19

Alyse Cohen Burman

Attracting Migratory Birds to
Your Yard in All Seasons.

July 17

Nanette Kalscheur

Pests & Problems on the Home Landscape
Master Gardener / Department of Agriculture -
Each year our lawns and gardens experience a
new variety of pests. Nanette will discuss how we
can address these new problems.

August 21

Joyce Basel

Beauty & the Beasts – So. Africa

Beauty and the Beasts is an "armchair" safari to the beautiful country of South Africa. During this PowerPoint presentation, you will visit the Cape of Good; the magnificent Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens; and visits to see the Cape fur seals and the African penguin. It continues with the famous Garden Route and a visit to the holiday city of Durban. Kwa Zulu Natal with its famous Hluhluwe-Umfoloze game reserve and of course the area of Kruger National Park and its fabulous wildlife. The grand-finale of your safari will be a visit to the greatest waterfall in the world, Victoria Falls.

Stepping Stones Luncheon

The annual Stepping Stones luncheon was once again attended by members of the Club and this year the table decorations were designed and created by Carole Lockerbie with help from Joyce Basel. The elegant container held branches of curly willow festooned with butterflies and the vases had mounds of purple

While this year there was no fashion show, there were still a large number of vendors with a variety of interesting items for sale. There was a fascinating array of tables with diverse and colorful ideas and extraordinary centerpieces. It was a fun event enjoyed by all and certainly a very worthwhile cause to support.

Joyce Basel



L-r: Henia Sullivan, Cathy Gall, Carole Lockerbie, Joyce Basel, Akhila Meda, Cheryl Svee, Janiel's guest and Janiel Price

DuPage Care Center News....

Garden Club Members Plant at DuPage Care Center (DPCC)

Club members Susan Glick-Shore, Linda Kunesh, Jennifer Moore, Joan Skotleski, Jeff Schoder, Henia Sullivan, and Kelly Vitacco joined 7 Master Gardeners to plant flowers our Club donated to DPCC. The planting took place on Saturday, May 19, a beautiful day to be in the Garden! Containers, the Rainbow Garden, and in-ground beds were completed. Residents, their families, and staff have commented the Secret Garden looks amazing! Thanks, Bloomingdale Garden Club!



Garden Club Members Invited to Family and Friends Day in the Garden at DuPage Care Center (DPCC)

Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 15, 1-3 p.m. DPCC's Resident Gardeners, Master Gardeners, and Garden Volunteers 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 blue 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.

Gardening Muses from Joanna Gaines



If you garden or care for your yard, you know something is always waiting to be done. If you ignore it for a bit, triple the work will be waiting. This could feel like a burden more than a blessing, but a garden gives back certain gifts. When I finally accepted yardwork as a fact of my life, I started digging my hands deep in the soil, no longer annoyed by the dirt but thankful for it. The garden has become my sanctuary, my place of calm in the storm. What I gain during gardening is exponentially more than what I put into it. My nerves settle, my mind eases, and I often leave with answers to questions I didn't know my mind was asking. Some swear by therapy. Me, gardening.

The Magnolia Journal, Fall 2017

2018 FLOWER & PLANT SALE VERY SUCCESSFUL!



Thanks to Bloomingdale Garden Club members, their families, and friends this year's Flower & Plant Sale was very successful! We had a **profit of \$6,220** – \$8,041 came from 52 pre-sale orders, \$10,522 were collected from 274 purchases during the days of sale!

This year's result was \$1,180 less than last year's sale but still very good. It's important to note we had fewer perennials to sell due to the late arrival of spring. This year's perennials netted \$848 compared to last year's profit of \$1,500.

Here are some of the highlights and “lessons learned” from our 2018 Sale:

- * Our vendor, Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse, was a joy to work with again and provided quality plants!
- * Thirty (30) of our 57 current and new Club members personally contributed their time over the course of many days! We also had the help of family members & friends.
- * We had an amazing 28 people help unload and inventory the plants prior to pulling the pre-sale orders. Getting the plants shortly after noon on Thursday was very helpful! However, we need to double check what is on the tables after the pre-sale orders are pulled to see if the amounts match with our Inventory sheets. Had we done that, we would have seen that some plants had been substituted and that some of the pre-sale orders were “not shorted” or missing plants. Further, we need to consistently check all orders, not just when they are pulled, but also when the customer picks up their order. Lessons learned...
- * We changed things up a bit this year and asked those who submitted a pre-sale order to pick up their order Thursday evening. They also were allowed to “shop early” for additional plants. This is another great reason to submit a pre-sale order – you can shop early! We opened on time – 9 a.m. on Friday.
- * As mentioned above, the weather impacted our perennial sale. We netted \$848 and unfortunately had fewer quantities and varieties. However, we still had some highlights. One gentleman came and bought ALL the remaining day lilies and Hostas. Rob, a community member, donated many plants for our sale!
- * Bloomingdale Park District once again 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.
- * Tables rented to us by Rental Max again were at a reduced cost. 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 by club members Cathy Kreis and Henrietta (Henia) Sullivan. The hanging baskets were outstanding!
- * 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 Akhila Meda resulted in notices about our Flower & Plant Sale being published in the *Daily Herald* and other newspapers multiple times each month, beginning in early 2018! Publicity efforts were further supported by Cathy Gall's postings on Facebook, Henia's fliers advertising our sale, Dan Vitacco's postings on our website, & the Park District and Village posting information about our sale, as well.

Plant Sale Report Continued....

- * Proven Winners provided us with 400 copies of the *Gardener's Idea Book* for just the cost of shipping. Cathy Gall made beautiful labels for these that noted they were compliments of the Bloomingdale Garden Club and advertised our Sale. The books were distributed to area libraries and other locations around the village prior to the Sale.
- * Our partnership with Joe Potts and the Bloomingdale Park District continues to strengthen and contributes so much to the success of our Sale. Joe even dedicated two of his workers to help us set up tables and the hanging basket display on Thursday. The guys remained on site for most of Thursday helping when needed.
- * Providing the opportunity for customers to use credit cards rather than cash or check for purchases resulted in 51 sales totaling \$3,062!
- * The Container Gardens & Edythe Griffin's beautiful paintings netted \$211 from Raffles! And speaking of raffles, those who sold the tickets, especially Linda Martin on Saturday, did a great job!
- * Items for sale included beautiful nature gardens and wreaths made by Carole Lockerbie & Cheryl Svec, along with used gardening books, soil, Wedgies, a planter box, and pottery. Total sales were \$243!
- * Our Flower and Plant Sale supported our Plot to Plate Community Garden, WINGS, area churches, and of course our charitable donations that we determine in November of each year.

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

Also be sure to take those photos of your plants and submit them for the Photo Contest!

Thanks to so many of you, the Park District, and Sunrise Greenhouse our 2018 Sale was truly successful! We had a lot of fun!

Your 2018 Plant Sale Committee: Joyce Basel, Cathy Gall, Kathryn Kacalo, Linda Kunesh, Akhila Meda, Jennifer Moore, Laura Sewall, Henia Sullivan, & Kelly Vitacco.



Plant Sale Photos



Tables are ready for the flowers!



Tables are filling up!



Tables full of flowers!



Gorgeous Hanging Baskets!



Veggies and
more Veggies!



Accessory Gift Items!

Plot-to-Plate Garden Update

On April 26th, the first plants went into the 2018 Plot-to-Plate Garden. Despite the cool temperatures we were able to layout the garden and plant peas, lettuce, beets, cabbage, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, onions, radishes, snap peas, and spinach. A hard frost took the cabbage but everything else fared well.

On May 24th, the rest of the garden was planted. Added were new cabbage plants, basil, cilantro, cucumbers, eggplant, parsley, peppers (green, red, and hot), potatoes, thyme, and 9 kinds of tomatoes. Cosmos and snapdragons were planted along two edges to invite pollinators to visit. Several days later seeds for green beans, zucchini, acorn squash and butternut squash were added. Thank you to Kathy Mikutis, Gail Sanders, Eileen Spaman, and Cheryl Svee for completing the planting. These four members of the Plot-to-Plate committee will be harvesting the garden as it begins to produce.

Now comes your turn. We have asked garden club members to sign up for a week to weed and water the garden. Below is a list of volunteers so far. If you could spare just one week to help in the garden, we would appreciate it. Remember all of the produce harvest goes to the Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry. You can sign up to help at the June meeting or email Gail at sandersgvjp@comcast.net. If you want to sign up with someone else and work together or split the week, that is fine. Thanks for your support of this project!

Week of May 27 - Gail Sanders
June 3 - Cheryl Svee & Linda Kunesh
June 10 - Carole Lockerbie
June 17 - Joan Skotleski
June 24 - Susan Glick-Shore & Cathy Kreis
July 1 - Jennifer Moore & Akhila Meda
July 8 - Joyce Basel
July 15 - Laurie Dring
July 22 - Jennifer Moore & Akhila Meda
July 29 -
August 5 - Irene Jones
August 12 - Laurie Dring
August 19 - Joyce Basel
August 26 -
September 2 - Cathy Kreis
September 9 - Laurie Dring
September 16 -
September 23 -
September 30 -
October 7 - Linda Kunesh & Henia Sullivan
October 14 - Gail Sanders



L to R: Eileen Spaman, Cheryl Svee and Kathy Mikutis

***Please save us your clean used **pint** containers (quart containers will be too big) from purchases of small tomatoes or blueberries. We will use them to take the cherry tomatoes harvested from our Plot-to-Plate Garden to the food pantry. Just bring them to a meeting. Thank you!

What a good idea.....”

I paint all of the handles of my gardening tools neon colors so they don't blend in with the grass.”

Nyna McKittrick, Real Simple June 2018

Plant Sale Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our raffles at our Annual Flower & Plant Sale:

Sun Container Garden in Beige Pot: Arlene Dovichi, Bloomingdale
Sun Container Garden in Blue Pot: Beth Gorski, Bloomingdale
Shade Container Garden in Beige Pot: John Conroy, Bartlett
Shade Container Garden in Blue Pot: Joyce Boryla, Bloomingdale
Art Work: Henrietta Sullivan, Schaumburg



Photo Contest 2018



Fellow gardeners, now that the plant sale is behind us it is once again time to be dreaming about winning the photo contest. Annuals, perennials and vegetables purchased at the 2018 plant sale will all be eligible to win our photo contest. There are cash prizes for first, second and third place winners with honorable mention photos all displayed on a photo board. Annuals or veggies can be photographed in either pots or gardens as well as the perennials. It is always enjoyable to see the combinations of plants that are selected for photographing. Everyone of us has such an individual style for plant selection and display. Please join in the fun and enter our the contest. You have all summer through Oct. 31st to enter to win.

The Photo Contest Committee, Carole Lockerbie, Chair

The Seed - by Nancy Kirkwood

A simple seed - a little seed - a moment shared
a life enriched because someone stopped and
really cared.

It only takes a little extra effort to encourage &
plant a seed

But it may bring joy where sadness was & fulfill
a void - a need.

Sometimes we think that only the big things
we do are Grand

When heartfelt giving can
be as simple as holding out
your hand.



So as you walk the path of
life, scatter many seeds of hope and love,

Don't worry if those seeds will grow - leave
that job to the one above.

Little things matter!

Written by Nancy Kirkwood, January 16, 2018

(Nancy is a customer of Joyce Basel's, a member of the Glen Ellyn Garden Club and has been in ill health for quite some time.)

Feed My Starving Children Event

As part of the philanthropy of the "Strength of 100" - (an offshoot of the 100+ Women who Care) initiative several of our members recently volunteered at the Feed my Starving Children facility in Schaumburg.

Cathy Gall, Henia Sullivan and I (Joyce Basel), worked for an hour and a half (at a very steady pace) to fill individual bags of healthy dehydrated food for needy kids in Africa and other places. This was a real eye opener for us! There were about 200 people - all volunteers - working in teams. Music filled the place, encouraging announcements were made about progress and the placed hummed with enthusiasm as everyone took to the task and seriously worked at it.

At the end of what was about an hour and a half some of us felt that the time had slipped by but feet and backs told us differently. However, we were all truly inspired to find that we had succeeded in filling a huge number of baggies, packed into an impressive array of boxes ready for shipment that would feed impoverished and malnourished kids somewhere in the world.

The three of us agreed that we would return to do it again - it was so rewarding and we also thought that our Club may want to participate. It is an awesome thing to do! Let Cathy, Henia or me know and we will form a group to go together to participate in this tremendous endeavor.
Joyce Basel

Good Cheer-Member Concerns

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

Delores Franson is now in Memory Care. While she does not remember much, her daughter thought she may enjoy getting a note from us. She was our Treasurer for many years and a really long time member of the club. She had a delightful sense of humor and a lovely laugh that many will remember well. She is in Harbor Chase, 1619 North Mill Street, Naperville, IL.60563.

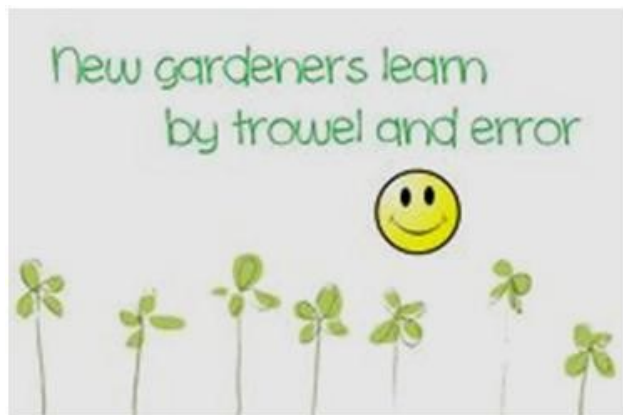
Joyce Boryla

Joyce is home with medical equipment and caregivers. Because of her situation, she cannot get to the phone, so please no calls or visits.

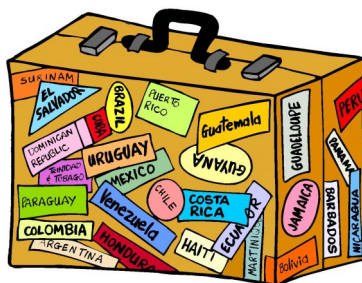
Cards can be sent to her at: 327 Whitehall
Terrace, Bloomingdale, IL 60108-1384.
Please keep Joyce and Joe in your thoughts
and prayers.

****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



Reasons to Travel—this article is meant to inspire! However, you can do the same thing with a good book!!!



I sell a lot of Italy—most clients want to see the highlights: Rome, Florence, Venice, the Tuscan Region, Pisa, and the Amalfi Coast. However, there is so much more to see in Italy! The Southern Coast offers diverse cities such as Alberobello and Polignano—take a moment to see the beauty of these cities by using your computer. Medina, which is in the South of Italy, not be confused with Modena, which is in the North of Italy...is another fascinating city. Truly, if you want relaxation, outside of Tuscany, Italy has a lot to offer.

The good book I mentioned at the beginning of this article is called, “Calabria, The Other Italy”, written by Karen Haid. This is a wonderful book to read during the summer. The mystery of those Southern Regions, especially Calabria, she brings alive to the reader.

The best reason to travel is to expand your own horizons, or the horizons of those you choose to travel with and wish to share experiences in another country.

The worst reason to travel is to impress your family and friends. In between those too, best and worst, while education and experience are worthwhile reason to travel, there is also the ability to make 'friends' with those of a different culture...greater understanding...forming your own opinion of a part of the world that you and I may only hear about on TV. Getting to know the area, the people, the culture, and maybe bridging the gap of understanding each other better.

Travel is my 'desire of the heart' - it gives back so much in the way of understanding. Use every trip or vacation to bring more Peace in the World...the return is outstanding!

That's it from Travel Techniques - Marilyn Dattillo
ATA 14-535894
Phone 630-671-0750
traveltech@att.net

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

2018 Club Officers/Committees

*President.....Laura Sewall
*1st Vice President.....Joyce Basel
(Membership)
Membership Committee.....Henia Sullivan
*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.....Cathy Kreis
*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.



You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

—Jane Goodall