



The Trowel

Volume 6 , Issue 4

President's Prose

Greetings Members and Friends!

Yet another year is drawing to an end and I do hope you were able to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving with family & friends. Personally, this year I'm grateful for my beautiful Great Niece Charlotte, a.k.a. Charlie. And, in a few short weeks, my youngest nephew will be graduating as a Seaman's Apprentice out of Great Lakes Naval Academy where he qualified for the Navy's nuclear program. Once through his training, he'll be able to take care of all electrical aspects on his submarine! (Well, the Navy's Submarine ☺). I also give thanks for all the wonderful members of our Club. Without you, our club wouldn't be what it is, so 'Thank you' to all !

The cold weather & snow has come early and digs in! I don't mind the chill, but the snow caught me by surprise & I had to scramble to finish all the outside winter clean up. One of the last 'wet' snows we had was extremely heavy and snapped two 10-12 foot branches from my pine tree. If there is an upside, it's the fact I don't have to go out and buy greens for my winter containers! Those containers are fun & beautiful, but I'm a warm weather girl, so my eye is already on December 22nd...that's when the days start getting longer!

November is also our traditional craft month, this year lead by our Program Director Mary Sue Fornari. With her team, Linda Martin, Sandy Kappeler and the Club's Elves...a big Thank You for the festive table top decorations that were assembled and delivered to the West Suburban Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bloomingdale. Also in Club news, congratulations to our own Cheryl Svec and Peggy Laraia, who in November, completed the University of Illinois Extension's Master Gardener Program and will be interning in 2019. They now join the ranks of Linda Kunesh, Gail Sanders and myself as Master Gardeners in the BGC. We raise a 'trowel' to you!

Looking to business for the coming year, we have four Board positions that will come to term at the end of the year and voted on in January. First up is, PRESIDENT, currently held by me, Laura Sewall. I have truly enjoyed serving this past term & would love to continue for a second! Second is TREASURER, currently held by Cheryl Svec who is also seeking re-election. Third is PROGRAMS, 2nd Vice President currently held by Mary Sue Fornari. Mary Sue is looking to retire. And finally, PUBLICITY, currently held by Akhila Meda, she is also looking to retire. Look for the article with additional candidates for these positions and something new this year, a short bio on why the candidates choose to run.

Not only is January our election month, it's the Club's annual Business meeting that determines the Donation Distributions. Won't you please make it a point to attend in January to vote and provide input on the donations? If you have an organization in mind you think that may benefit from BGC's donation, please don't hesitate to contact me.

As we head into this Holiday Season, may you find Peace and Joy. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Party December 11th! Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a healthy, Happy New Year!

All the Best, Laura Sewall, President

"Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand." Henry David Thoreau

Snowman Crossing



A brave group weathered the elements to decorate a tree at the Bloomingdale Public Library's Snowman Crossing.

Left to Right: Laurie Johns, Cheryl Svee, Jennifer Moore, Kirt Shore, Henia Sullivan, Carole Lockerbie, Susan Shore and Bobbi Pulido.

Mark your 2019 Calendars Now!!!



CHICAGO FLOWER
& GARDEN SHOW

FLOWERTALES

THE STORY GROWS ON

MARCH 20 - 24, 2019 at NAVY PIER

Fall Meetings

September — Mel Zaloudek — Critters in Your Garden

Mel focused on which plants to have in our gardens that would be the least appealing to our back yard critters.



October — Don White — Anything Orchids

Don not only shared many good growing tips, he also brought in so many gorgeous and different varieties of orchids.

November — Nursing Home and Personal Christmas Craft

Approximately 30 of us members/friends gathered to put together these centerpieces for West Suburban Nursing Home. They are sure to brighten up the dining room tables for this Christmas season.



Plot-to-Plate End of Year Report

Early frosts cut our growing season a little short this year but the members of the Plot-to-Plate committee (Kathy Mikutis, Gail Sanders, Eileen Spaman, and Cheryl Svee) were able to harvest and transport a little over 375 pounds of produce to the Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry in 2018. Our donations included basil, parsley, thyme, eggplant, carrots, kale, Swiss chard, spinach, beets, onions, peppers (sweet and hot), acorn squash, butternut squash, cilantro, cucumbers, green beans, lettuce, sugar snap peas, yellow summer squash, radishes, zucchini, and lots of tomatoes.

We would like to thank the following people for giving a week or more to keeping the plot weeded and watered: Joyce Basel (2), Jeff Dengler (1), Kelly & John Devore (1), Laurie Dring (3), Susan Glick-Shore (2), Cathy Kreis (2), Linda Kunesh (2), Carole Lockerbie (1), Akhila Meda (4), Jennifer Moore (3), Jamie Schneck (1), Joan Skotleski (2), Henia Sullivan (2), Cheryl Svee (3) and Barb Weisenburger (1). It really takes all of your help to make this happen.



The plot has been cleaned up and all of our equipment has been safely stored waiting for next spring.

Upcoming 2018 Programs

January 15

Annual Business Meeting

We will be voting for new officers and making decisions on our 2018 philanthropic donations. Your input is important!

February 19

Joyce Basel

Beauty & the Beasts – So. Africa

Beauty and the Beasts is an "armchair" safari to the beautiful country of South Africa. Come join our resident South African as she shares her love of her beautiful, native country.

March 19

Michelle Nichols

The Science of Climate Change

Does climate change really exist? Will it have catastrophic consequences? Regardless of your personal beliefs on this matter, Ms. Michelle Nichols, who is a scientist at the Adler Planetarium, will put the politics on this subject to the back burner and focus on the science evidence. Some of the questions she will address are: what does science say is happening? Where does the data come from? What might be in our future?

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.

BGC at the Farmer's Market

Bloomingdale Garden Club had four successful dates at the Bloomingdale Farmers' Market this summer, which raised \$458 for the Club. Many thanks to committee members Carole Lockerbie, Kathy Mikutis and Cheryl Svec, who worked tirelessly to make this effort a success. Not only did the committee craft a variety of items for sale, but they also introduced the BGC to the community and tackled a host of gardening questions from patrons. Also, a big thank you to BGC members who came out and supported the Club. Jennifer Moore shared this photo, showing her creativity in displaying items she purchased to beautify her home.



*Merry
Christmas*

Christmas Party Photos



40 of us gathered at Jameson's for a delightful Christmas party on December 11. The food was delicious, the white elephant gifts funny and the comradery was just outstanding. Here are all the photos from the evening.



L-R: Mary Sue Fornari, Akhila Meda, Caterina Bonura, Linda Martin, Sandy Kappeler, Peggy Laraia, Carole Lockerbie and Cheryl Svec

L-R: Art Dattilo, Marilyn Dattilo, Chris Magnatowski, Chris Brewer, Gail Brewer, Bobbi Pulido, Pat Frank and Deb Dolphin



(Photos continued on next page)

Christmas Party Continued



L-R: Esther Ahlrich, Jennifer Moore, Tim Moore, Maureen Gibson, Dave Gibson, Joe Boryla, Cathy Kreis (not pictured)

L-R: Joan Anne Skotleski, Joyce Basel, Helen Price, Janiel Price, Kathryn Kacalo, Linda Kunesh, Henia Sullivan and Cathy Gall.



Joyce Basel made the beautiful Centerpieces.



We celebrated December birthday girls!

L-R: Pat Frank, Maureen Gibson, Joyce Basel and Helen Price

Clever Uses for Wood Ashes

With winter upon us, here are some fun tips with what to do with Wood Ashes from Women's Day, February 2018. Some of them are for our summer gardens, but just hang on to your ashes in a metal garbage can until then.

1. Repel Slugs & Snails—Sprinkle ashes evenly around garden beds to keep these pests away from flowers and vegetables.
2. Brew Nutrient Rich, All-Purpose Ash Tea—Fill a cloth bag with ash, tying it off and steeping it in a 5 gallon bucket of water for a few days. Use it to water plants weekly.
3. Polish Silver and Other Metals—Mix a cup of ashes with a splash of water to use as a non-toxic metal cleaner.
4. Hide Oil and Grease Stains—Wood ash is a drying agent and it helps clean oily splatters from porous surfaces like stone and ceramics. Pour it on spills, rub with a cloth and then wipe off.



Pinecone Fire Starters - Birds & Blooms Extra, January 2018

Supplies:

Natural, dry pinecones	Flame Color Additives (Optional)
Clear Candle Wax	1 c. table salt (yellow flame)
Choice of candle dye colors	1 c. borax (yellow-green flame)
Tall Tin Can & Metal Tongs	1 c. salt substitute with potassium (violet flame)
Foil-lined Baking Sheet	1 c. Epsom Salts (white flame)

Step 1: Pretreatment for coloring flames (optional). Fill a bucket with 1/2 gallon hot water. Mix in one of the additives. Soak the pinecones in solution for 8 hours. Remove; let cones dry until fully opened and then dip in wax as below.

Step 2: for Wax Coating. Melt clear wax in a double boiler (I would use a can for this) over low heat and mix in candle dye. Remove from heat; pour into tall tin can, leaving space near top. With tongs, dip each pinecone into the melted wax until completely covered, then place on foil-lined baking sheet to stand until wax sets.

Step 3: to Light Fire. Place a pinecone on your kindling and light a single scale. If you chose to pretreat your pinecones with additives, be sure to burn only one color at a time.

Bloomingtondale Garden Club Elections for Key Officer Positions

At our January 15th Garden Club Business Meeting, we will be electing officers for President, 2nd Vice President for Programs, and Treasurer. Each person will serve for two years. Below are statements from each of our candidates at the time of writing this newsletter. There will be opportunity at the Business meeting to self-nominate and we will take additional nominations from the floor.

President

“Hello Everyone - I am **Joyce Basel** running for Club President. I have lived in Bloomingtondale for 50 years and been an active member of this club since the 90's. The Club is a very important part of my life and I would consider it a privilege to serve you again. Thank you.”

“Hello Members & Friends

I've been a member of the Garden Club for more than a dozen years. I've served on many Committees over the years and have thoroughly enjoyed all the opportunities! As your current President, I am seeking a second term. Engaging with the creativity of our members, I would facilitate bringing new, fresh ideas to our Club that would showcase the Bloomingtondale Garden Club in new & exciting venues! Any one game for entering the Chicago Flower and Garden Show floral window box competition? I have many more ideas & I'd like to hear yours too!

Thank You for your consideration. **Laura Sewall**, President”

2nd Vice President, Programs

“My name is **Laurie Dring**. I live in Bloomingtondale and have been a club member for 18 months. I will do my best to provide the same caliber of programs that our members have come to enjoy.”

Treasurer

“I'm **Cheryl Svee**, a resident of Roselle. I was thrilled to find the Club in 2016 as the Plant Sale planning was in full swing. I immediately joined, worked the Plant Sale and enjoyed the monthly programs. In the fall of 2016 when the call was put out to fill positions, I volunteered to take the Treasurer spot, as it aligned with my work history as a budget and program analyst. It has been my pleasure to serve the Club in this capacity for the past two years and I am happy to continue to do so.”

A Recipe for Irish Crème Liqueur

I can already taste this in a hot cup of coffee!!!!

1-14oz. Sweetened Condensed Milk
1 c. Heavy Cream
2 T. Chocolate Syrup
1.5 t. Instant Espresso Granules
1 t. Vanilla
1/2 t. Almond Extract
1 c. Irish Whiskey (or milk for non-alcoholic version)

Blend all until smooth. Keep Refrigerated.

Cheers Everyone



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.

Jo Dabrowski has been hospitalized.

George Holtz has returned home. Continue to send cards and visitors are ok too.

Delores Franson is now in Memory Care. Cards can be sent to: Harbor Chase, 1619 North Mill Street, Naperville, IL 60563.

Jane Czyzewski is now in an assisted living facility in Arizona.
Sage Desert Assisted Living
2365 W Orange Grove Rd
Tucson AZ 85741
520-403-3847

****I count on you, the members, to be the eyes and ears. Do not assume that 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

*“Every single story
that nature tells is
gorgeous.”*

—Natalie Angier

Travel Corner

I thought - as a travel agent and tour operator - I would provide a little information about flying Emirates Air.

Out of JFK Emirates Air is highly competitive fare wise, and offers outstanding service. I flew Emirates to Dubai and was extremely impressed by the service. Sitting in coach is like being in First Class on some of our domestic carriers....there is truly no comparison. Emirates is government backed, so their success is guaranteed!

Most of our country's carriers have matched the airfares offered by Emirates, however, they fall very short when compared to the service that Emirates provides. In First Class on Emirates - there are flat beds, and private showers.....yes, you can take a shower at 33,000 feet!!! The meals are all served with linen and china, even in coach class! There are no alcoholic beverages served, nor available for purchase....and I think this might be a good idea.....not just a practice based on custom or religion preference. The flight attendants are still screened for attributes of height, weight and personal appearance, along with an age restriction. These same qualifications are not present in our domestic carriers.

Would I fly Emirates again...definitely yes...but only if I had the extra time needed as most of the international flights on Emirates will take you first to Dubai! When I flew Emirates, I was sitting next to a gentleman, who was flying to South Africa! As a travel agent, I questioned his choice of carrier, as we had to go to Dubai first, for he and his family to transfer for their continuing flight to Johannesburg! He clearly stated, and was exactly correct, he would rather spend an additional six hours plus, in travel time, and have the comfort afforded by Emirates Air! The cost of his airline tickets was actually more affordable on Emirates! When purchasing airline tickets....check every carrier....for the best airfare and the best service!

Travel Techniques - Marilyn Dattillo, Owner
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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.



*In the depths of winter, I finally
learned that within me there lay
an invincible summer.*

—Albert Camus