

The Trowel



Volume 7 , Issue 1

President's Prose

Hello Dear Members and Friends,

I need hardly tell you all how delighted I am to once again be your President and to thank you for entrusting me with leading the club for a year or two again. I will certainly work hard for you and I know that the club will move forward in fun and interesting ways.

Your new Board has already been busy at work. We met in January and put the wheels in motion to get things rolling. As you will have noticed we have a beautiful new logo! It is based on the design submitted by Laura but amended to ensure that the size can be changed to accommodate everything we hope to do with it in the future. Thanks to Jamie for her hard work to get this done so quickly and so efficiently.



The calendar for the club's events for the year is up and running with interesting speakers and activities. Mary Sue handed this over in really nice shape to Laurie who took the ball and ran with it. It looks like we have great presentations ahead. By the way, I truly enjoyed taking you on the armchair safari with me last month and I hope that those who attended the meeting enjoyed the journey with me!

The Plant Sale committee has been incredibly busy getting everything ready for our big event of the year! And getting new and exciting plants for us to buy and grow in the season to come. You cannot imagine the hours and hours it takes to decide on what to offer, the price, and have the order form done in time! I hope that everyone has their forms in hand and are already studying them and getting excited. Don't forget the deadline comes up quickly for making your pre-sale order and enjoying the discount offered.

While I really try to think ahead to springtime, I have to admit that this winter is getting very long and dreary. The cold has been brutal and it just seems as though the brown and dirty snow refuses to melt. I have only seen a very few little daffodil and tulip tips peeping through gosh I do wish that spring would arrive one of these days!

And on that note, let me hope that you are keeping warm! And, like me, are looking forward to a happy gardening time ahead.

Joyce Basel

"A wish made upon seeing the first robin in spring will come true—but only if you complete the wish before the robin flies away." Irish Superstition

Master Gardeners in the News



The University of Illinois Extension of DuPage County recognized its Master Gardeners with a celebration in November 2018. Our own Linda Kunesh and Gail Sanders were honored. Linda with 10 years in the program and both Linda and Gail with over 300+ volunteer hours given in service. These trained Master Gardeners share their own time and talents through the Master Gardener Help Desk, service projects, community gardens, youth programs, horticulture therapy, heritage work and More.

World Naked Gardening Day

Now that I have your attention:)

World Naked Gardening Day dates to 2005. It is celebrated on the first Saturday in May and originally was the brainchild of Mark Storey, an editor at Nude & Natural magazine. He was inspired by the World Naked Bike Ride!

Now wouldn't this cause quite a stir at the Saturday of our Plant Sale, May 4!

Sorry.....no clip art or pictures available!!!

Plot-to-Plate News

Work is being done to create a layout for this year's plantings. With added space this year we will be moving a few things around. We have decided mostly to increase plantings of what we have been growing rather than introducing new items. Our garden will remain in the same area but will add the space that has been planted in flowers. The flower beds will be moved north to near the fence separating the gardens from the soccer fields.



In May we will be asking members to volunteer for a week (or more) of weeding and watering in our Plot-to-Plate garden. We hope that you will consider signing up to help. The four of us on the committee (Kathy Mikutis, Gail Sanders, Eileen Spaman, and Cheryl Svee) couldn't keep up with things if it wasn't for your help. Once again the committee will take care of the harvesting.

Joyce Basel and Gail Sanders have recently met with Bloomingdale Township Supervisor, Mike Hovde concerning the food pantry and the promised renovation. At this time plans have been drawn up and a contractor has been contacted for a bid on the project. We have been shown plans and hope that the improvements will make the pantry a better place for their clients and for us to drop off our produce.

The food pantry is being overseen by a not for profit group consisting of 4 directors. We did learn that the food pantry could really use some more volunteers. It is located behind the Bloomingdale Township Building on the east side of Rosedale Road north of Lake Street (123 N Rosedale). If you are interested in volunteering contact Bobby Ryan, Food Pantry Manager/Caseworker at bobbyr@bloomingdaletownship.com or 630 529-9993.

Winter Meetings

January — Annual Business Meeting/Benevolent Donations

2017/2018 President, Laura Sewall, led the meeting. All officers and committee members had the opportunity to report on the 2018 year. Elections were held for several offices for the 2019/2020 years. Officer and Committee members are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Minutes of this meeting have been previously distributed.

February — Joyce Basel — Beauty and the Beasts of South Africa

Joyce gave us a wonderful PowerPoint presentation of the flora and fauna of her native South Africa.



BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB TO PLANT AT THE DUPAGE CARE CENTER SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019



Please join us to plant flowers at the DuPage Care Center Resident Secret Garden (400 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton) on Saturday, May 18th, 8:45 a.m. - Noon. Park in any spot designated for Visitor or Volunteer. We'll meet at the Entrance behind the Center.

Bring garden gloves, a trowel, and kneeler. Garden benches will be available for those who cannot kneel. Please contact Linda by Wednesday, May 15th to let her know if you will join us or if you have questions – 630-221-8684 (h); 630-306-7854 (c); kunesh310@comcast.net

The first day of spring is one thing and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

Henry Van Dyke

2019 BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB FLOWER & PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, May 3 & SATURDAY, MAY 4

Spring will be blooming with the arrival of beautiful flowers from our vendor, Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Nursery, our professional grower in Grant Park, IL. We'll also have perennials from members' gardens. **Club member help is needed for MANY things!**

NOTE: ALL activities will take place at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Dr., Bloomingdale. (north end of Springfield Park)

Perennial Potting Party, Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Rain or Shine). Bring your perennials with information attached and we'll help get them potted. Also bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage, and any plastic pots you may have. Sizes needed: 6", 8", 10", 12". See Spring Potting Party Information, "2019 Guidelines for Perennials" in this newsletter.

Drop-off of Wagons, Carts, & Equipment Wednesday, May 1, 10 a.m.

Plant Sale Prep, Wednesday, May 1, noon – 5 p.m. Tables, table cloths, and signage will be set up.

Flower Delivery, Inventory, Staging, & Setting Aside Pre-Sale Orders: Thursday, May 2, 8:30 a.m. -- 5 p.m. We need a LOT of help unloading the flowers; completing the inventory; staging the flats, cases, and baskets of flowers & plants; and pulling and setting aside Pre-sale Orders. Bring your family members, friends, and neighbors to help. NOTE: Those who help this afternoon may pick their own pre-sale orders!

Sneak Peak at Perennials, Thursday, May 2, 5 – 7:30 p.m. Members & friends may purchase early. (Cash, check, or credit cards accepted.)

Picking Up Pre-Sale Orders, Thursday, May 2, 5 - 7:30 p.m. You also may shop for additional plants! (Cash, check, or credit cards accepted.)

Flower & Plant Sale: Friday, May 3, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Help is needed for set-up, sales, and clean up. Contact Linda at 630-221-8684 (home), 630-306-7854 (cell) or kunesh310@comcast.net to let her know WHEN you will commit to help.

Raffles: Two large pots (one for sun; the other for shade) and a quilt will be available for the raffles.

For Sale: Used gardening-related books and magazines; nature-inspired craft decorations.

Master Gardener Help Desk will be available throughout the Sale.

Winning Photos from Last Year's Photo Contest will be on display, along with guidelines for submitting entries for 2019.

Gift Certificates: Gift Certificates in any denomination are still available. Recipients of the gift certificates may redeem them at our Sale. These make great Mother's Day, Easter, and birthday gifts and are suitable to mark any occasion/event. Day-of-Sale prices apply. To order gift certificates, send a note with legible name/address and a check made payable to:

Bloomington Garden Club

c/o Henrietta Sullivan

1015 Tiverton Court

Schaumburg, IL 60193

It takes our ENTIRE Garden Club to make this Sale a success.

Bloomington Garden Club Spring Potting Party Information

“2019 GUIDELINES FOR PERENNIALS”

We LOVE getting plants from our Garden Club Members and their friends for our Plant Sales. Below are a few “guidelines” we’d appreciate you following to ease your preparation and help our Garden Club get the most profit we can while giving our customers high quality, member-grown plants.



Preparation for Plant Labels and Signs: By **April 20th**, email Cathy Gall at jocagallfam@att.net to let her know what plants you will provide, how many, their height and spread, bloom time, and their growing conditions. Please include in your email the common name, along with the botanical name if you know it. Cathy is preparing labels for the plant markers. *(If you know that she already has a label on file, you can just let her know the name and how many plants you'll bring – no need for all the extra info!)* She'll then contact Henia to let her know so she can make printed signs will be posted in the group of “like plants.” An example is shown below:

Quantity: 3 – ‘Autumn Joy’ Sedum (*Herbstfreude*). Pink (changing to rust) flowers in flat heads; fleshy green leaves. 24” H x 18” W. Full sun or partial shade. Flowers August-September.

Perennial Plant Potting Party: Saturday, April 27th 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Bloomington Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Drive (the site of the plant sale - North end of Springfield Dr. between Schick Road and Lake Street). You may bring your plants in bags or boxes and members will help you get them potted. **We cannot accept any plants that are not identified.** If you have any 6” or larger pots or hanging baskets, please bring them! This is a great time to accept or trade perennials with other club members. Just remember though, once the plants are “potted” they belong to the Club and can only be purchased.

BE SURE TO CHECK A PERENNIAL BOOK OR THE INTERNET TO SEE IF THE PLANT CAN BE DIVIDED IN THE SPRING!

Sneak Peak at Perennials: Thursday, May 2nd from 5 to 7 p.m.: We will offer the perennials for sale to club members and their friends/family. Cash, checks and credits cards accepted.

IF YOU DECIDE TO DIG UP AND POT YOUR PLANTS YOURSELF, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

Plan ahead. Perennials should be dug up and potted NO LATER THAN April 27th. This will allow the plants to “settle in” into their pots. Be sure they are watered regularly and receive sufficient sun/shade so they can acclimate to their potted home.

Use a pot size that accentuates the plant’s full, lush growth for early spring. Use regular plastic pots, e.g., 6”, 8”, 10”, 12”, etc., for potting (no plastic bags please).

The type of plant and its condition, along with the size of the pot will determine our pricing.

Please use potting soil, NOT garden soil or dirt. The more attractive our plants are, the better they will sell. Re-use “old” potting soil from last year, if necessary, or purchase all-purpose potting soil at Home Depot, Lowe’s, etc., to cut down on your cost. (You do not need to purchase ‘Miracle Grow Soil-less Potting Mix.’) The plants will be transplanted by the customer within a few weeks from the time you pot them up. To minimize the mess, put a piece of newspaper or a new coffee filter in the bottom of the pot to cover the hole so the soil does not fall out.

Potted/labeled perennials need to be dropped off at the Bloomington Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Dr., Bloomington, on Wednesday, May 1st 12-3 p.m. or Thursday, May 2nd 5-6 p.m. Plants dropped off later may not be available for sale. Plants not identified will not be accepted.

Important Notes: We do not have the resources available to help dig up plants unless there is an unusual circumstance.

Please do not be offended if we “price” your plant for less than you think is appropriate. As the Sale progresses, or if we have an abundance of similar plants (e.g., day lilies), prices may be reduced to “Buy 1 [at highest price]; Get 1 [or 2] FREE.”

Questions or Concerns: Contact Cathy at 630-247-8493 or Linda at 630-221-8684.

Upcoming 2019 Programs

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?

April 16
Plant Sale Planning Discussion

Bring your calendars with you so you can sign up to help at our annual Plant Sale in early May.

May 21
Cindy Crosby
Frequent Flyers of the Garden:
Dragonflies & Damselflies

Dragonflies are some of the most fascinating and beautiful creatures in the garden.

Artists, musicians, and poets celebrate them; scientists continue to try to unravel the mysteries of their unusual natural history and bizarre sex life. In Cindy's presentation, you'll discover answers to these questions:

1. Why should anyone care about dragonflies? Aren't they just bugs?
2. Where do dragonflies spend the winter? Why don't I see them when it's cold?
3. What's the difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly?
4. Are dragonflies pollinators?
5. Where can I see dragonflies in Bloomingdale?
6. How can I attract dragonflies to my garden?

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.

Upcoming Gardening Events

Hi Garden Club!

SCARCE is excited to announce two upcoming events that hopefully you can pass along to your garden club members through your website, newsletters, and/or social media! Both events are totally free and great for the whole family.

The annual **Growin' Green Garden Market** is coming up on **Saturday, May 11th from 10 am to 1 pm at our location in Glen Ellyn** (799 Roosevelt Rd). You can pre-order food scrap amended compost for pick up that day, purchase locally farmed goods, purchase organic vegetable and herb seedlings, speak with a variety of local nonprofits and experts, and participate in our free workshop series featuring talks on beekeeping, gardening for pollinators, using compost in your yard and garden, and more!

Event information: <https://www.scarce.org/growin-green/>
Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1210722689098731/>
Compost pre-order: <https://www.scarce.org/compost-pre-order-form/>

This year we are thrilled to announce a new partnership with the Glen Ellyn Park District and our Green Fair efforts previously held in September. **SCARCE and the Glen Ellyn Park District present the Earth Day Fair on Sunday, April 28th from 1-4 pm at Lake Ellyn!** At this event, you will find eco-friendly nonprofits and vendors selling sustainable and fair trade items, guided nature hikes, a series of workshops, boat rentals, music, and food!

Event information: <https://www.scarce.org/earthdayfair/>

Please let me know if you have any questions about these events! Thanks for being a great friend of SCARCE!

Kaitlyn Hornik
Environmental Education

SCARCE

630.545.9710
799 Roosevelt Road
Building 2, Suite 108
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
www.scarce.org
@ScarceEcoEd



Donation Thank You Letters

Dear Cheryl and Bloomingdale Garden Club Members,

Thank you so much for your continuous and generous support of Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. Because of organizations like yours, we are able to serve those who have served this country and give our veterans the support they need and deserve.

Please let me know if you ever want to see the shelter or learn more about what your donation is doing for community's veterans.

Best,

Emily Kehoe

Donor Relations Coordinator

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans



Dear Friends of the Bloomingdale Garden Club:

Greetings, in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Savior!

What an incredible blessing it has been to have you all meeting within our facility this past year. We value relationships such as this, where the Word of God, the work of this gathered body of believers and the mission of this church have the opportunity to engage with and invest in the life of our community. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to partner with you!

Thank you, also, for the very kind donation of \$1000.00. We are truly surprised, and blessed, by the increase in your donation. Gifts such as these are placed in our operating fund, and enable us to invest in our community in even greater ways. Again, thank you!

The Mission of the Garden Club is a noble one, and one that we at St. Paul Church believe is of great value to the livelihood of our community. Your membership is committed to the beauty of our community, the environmental and natural stewardship of our community, the preservation of our historic places, and, I believe, your presence in our community is paramount to making Bloomingdale a great place to live! Job well done!

As always, the staff and membership of St. Paul Church stand ready to support the Bloomingdale Garden Club in its missional endeavors. If there is any way that we can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Jeremy L. Heitkam, Senior Pastor

On behalf of the congregation of St. Paul Evangelical Church.

Photo Contest Winners and Honorable Mentions

Here are the winners from the 2018 Photo Contest.



1st Place: Kathy Mikutis



2nd Place: Cheryl Svec



3rd Place: Jennifer Moore



Don't these beautiful pictures make you want to hurry and fill out your preorder forms for the plant sale? Then, you can take pictures for next year's photo contest and maybe one of you will be a contest winner. Can hardly wait for spring looking at these photos.

Carole Lockerbie and the Photo Contest Committee

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.

Georgette West is recovering from a broken leg. Because she is basically homebound she can receive phone calls and cards. It will be awhile before we see her smiling face. She has a NEW PHONE NUMBER and please leave a message providing your name and number so she can return your call when she is able. Her address is: 203 W Army Trail Rd, Bloomingdale IL 60108. Her new phone number is: 630-808-1484.

Gail Brewer is recovering from knee surgery. Please feel free to contact her at 11616 Woodcreek South, Apt B, Huntley, IL 60142-6804.

****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

All through the long winter

I dream of my garden.

On the first warm day of Spring

I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth.

I can feel its energy, and my spirits soar.

—Helen Hayes



Yes, fellow gardeners,
Spring is coming!!!!

Travel Corner

Japan - A Land Worthy of Your Time -

I just returned from a wonderful time in Japan....and wanted to do a short newsletter about the culture of Japan! My husband and I both really enjoy Japanese food...so, no issues there! And definitely - not one issue - about the people and the culture of Japan! The people are welcoming, friendly, helpful...as Japan can be confusing...lots of people in a very small area! However, the Japan Rail System provides help at each train station. These young men and women are in uniforms and can easily direct you to the correct train to take and where to exit the train to see the particular monument/shrine/temple or landmark that you want to enjoy. You don't have to have a Japan Rail Ticket, however, if you are going to want to experience the 'bullet train' - the JR Pass is the most affordable way to do enjoy Japan's complete rail system.

Japan is comprised of 4 islands...and I highly recommend - if you are interested in visiting Japan - that you spend some time in pursuing educational material....as being in Okinawa - farthest South Island - during the Winter months can be a most affordable treat! We were most impressed with how clean Japan is for a country that has such a huge population! And impressed with the politeness of such a vast population....no 'bumping into' people, real respect for a person's space, whether walking, or on a train! We've made plans to return to Japan for a one month stay! Airfare is about \$1100 per person - whether flying into Okinawa/Haneda/Narita Airports from Chicago/O'Hare. Our hotel room was very exciting for me! It was the smallest room I've ever stayed in and I absolutely loved it!!!! The efficiency of the room design was unmatched to anywhere in the World and I've traveled a lot! The bathroom sink faucet - beautifully designed - to fill or be used in either of two areas; namely the bathroom sink or the tub...the faucet swivels perfectly! The headboard contained all controls for the room, heating/cooling system, light fixtures, charging station....whatever you need was built into the headboard! And the hotel....on the 21st Floor...a wonderful On-Sen Bath experience! If you are not familiar with that word, please go to the internet! Hotel costs with a buffet brunch for two provided daily...in the Shinagawa Area - one train stop outside of Tokyo....\$105 per night!

My recommendation...Visit Japan... You Will Not Be Disappointed!

Marilyn Dattilo - Owner
Travel Techniques
IATA 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

2019 Club Officers/Committees

*President.....Joyce Basel
*1st Co-Vice Presidents.....Cathy Gall &
(Membership) Henia Sullivan
*2nd Vice President.....Laurie Dring
(Programs)
Program Committee....Joan Skotleski, Deb Dolphin
*Publicity.....Jamie Schneck
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
Market Cancelled for Summer 2019

*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.



*Laugh like you're 10, Party like you're
20, Travel like you're 30, Think like
you're 40, Advise like you're 50, Care
like you're 60 and Love like you're 70!*

—submitted by Esther Ahlrich