

# The Trowel



Volume 7, Issue 4

## President's Prose

Dear Members and Friends,

Is it possible that Halloween has come and gone already, Thanksgiving is around the corner and before we know it Christmas will be here!! Where did the year go? They say the older you get the faster time flies, and I really believe that is the case. I feel as though it should be springtime still and yet it has snowed already!



As most of you know, I moved into a little townhouse in Carol Stream at the end of July. It is a pretty area with lots of big trees, nice pathways and lawn, but not too many gardens! And I found out why! The darn squirrels are everywhere and they dig up absolutely anything and everything that one tries to put into the ground. The pots that I brought with me (which were still just fine with flowers blooming nicely) have had all kinds of abuse from these creatures. Dirt everywhere! Roots exposed! Some plants vanished totally!

What to do? I am certainly going to try the blood meal that was suggested by our latest speaker and hope that my bulbs and perennials survive the onslaught of these wicked little rodents.

During the past month or two, our members have participated in the Harvest Fest at the Community Gardens and the Make a Difference Day at Springfield Park. Read more about both events in this newsletter. I would like to thank everyone who turned up - we all enjoyed being outside and the camaraderie shared - and I would like to encourage everyone to consider joining your fellow members at these events next year.

I hope to see everyone at the craft project this month to make snowmen for the nursing home! And of course our Christmas party in December at Jameson's - it is always a highlight for me. See the pictures from the evening in this newsletter!

As this is the last Trowel of the year, I take the opportunity to thank you all for your friendship and to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and good health and joyful gardening in the year to come.

Joyce Basel

*"To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."* —Calvin Coolidge

## Fall Meetings

### September — Kay McKeen — S.C.A.R.C.E

Kay addressed many aspects of sustainability and conservation. She also gave us tips on how to protect our resources and where to dispose of all unwanted materials properly. In that light, our monthly meetings are going to transition to only using paper products that are recyclable.



### October — Cindy Tyley — Tips for the Lazy Gardener

Cindy gave us a humorous program on shortcuts in the garden. One I loved was using a small photo book to store seeds. Simply insert the seed packet in the photo sleeve. Can also include any notes.



### November — Christmas Centerpiece Craft for West Suburban Care Center

This photo is Mike McElroy's Santa Snowman! So cute!



## Garden Tips for Both Beginners and Seasoned Gardeners

Garden author Margaret Roach shares her insights in Better Homes & Gardens, September 2019

1. **Don't buy every plant you crave at the nursery.** This often leads to a polka-dot garden of one-sies, not a coherent landscape. Purchase fewer things in greater numbers to plant in drifts and repeat elsewhere in the garden.
2. **Plants grow.** Space woody plants no closer than two-thirds of their mature width apart, using annuals and perennials to fill in in the meantime.
3. **Limit the width of your beds.** A bed that is 6 feet wide or larger is impractical. Crawling in to plant and weed the middle compacts the soil.
4. **It is never too soon to install drip irrigation.** Saves time and water.
5. **Get to know your weeds.** Many local extension services have online tools for identifying weeds. Once identified, photograph them with notes to reference for next year.
6. **Make use of desirable volunteer plants.** Shop your own garden for seedlings of volunteers of your own plants, relocating them each spring.
7. **There are no "deer proof" plants.** A fence is your best defense.
8. **The vast majority of insects aren't pests.** Try bugguide.net and apps like iNaturalist.
9. **The number of seeds in a packet bears little relation to how many to sow.** i.e. there is a limit to how many tomato plants you really need.

## Grumpy's Gripe of the Month

Steve Bender's thoughts from Southern Living Magazine, January 2019

Every holiday season, people decorate with wreaths and branches of a foreign vine called Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). Laden with copious red and yellow berries, bittersweet can be gorgeous. However, it can also be a horrible weed of one of those seed-bearing berries falls into your garden. It spreads by twining stems and running roots capable of strangling small trees and smothering woodlands. So be warned: when it's time for that wreath to go, seal it up in a trash bag.



## To-Do List for January



Birds & Blooms Extra, January 2019 shared these tips to while away our winter days.

1. **Plan Ahead!** Grab some paper and a pencil, and sketch your future garden plans. Analyze your space and decide how many new plants you'll need.
2. **Recycle your holiday tree.** Set it up in your yard for birds to use as shelter. Then slather pine cones in peanut butter, dip them in birdseed and hang them on the branches.

## Garden Club Work

### THE MEANING OF GARDEN CLUB WORK

Author Unknown - from National Garden Club Membership Committee

- “ For some it means the actual gardening, hands in the soil, body in the sun and vision of color and fragrance and form.
- “ To some it means the use of flowers as a medium of artistic expression.
- “ To some it means an opportunity to serve their community by turning the ugly places into beauty spots.
- “ To some it is a spiritual experience, whereby they may serve through their gift of flowers to churches and hospitals and the lonely and forlorn.
- “ To a few, it means the challenge of leadership and personal ability in group work.
- “ To a very few, it is meaningless, a name on the membership list and a sometime attendance.
- “ But to the many it means making friends, meeting with the old and mingling with the new.
- “ Garden Club work is as complex as the unfolding of a rose and as simple as the face of a daisy. It is social. It is spiritual. It is political. It is educational. It is scientific. It is a way of life.

## Christmas Evergreen Arrangements

A group of 16 met on December 9 to put together personal evergreen arrangements. Below are pictures of three of the pretty arrangements.



### Upcoming 2020 Programs

**January 21**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Voting on Annual Donations**

**February 18**  
**Bill Whitney, City Bee Savers**  
Bill will be speaking to us about how to plant for pollinators and his efforts for the future of bees.

**March 17**  
**Emily Paster**  
Five Ways to Preserve a Harvest

**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.

## Pollinators in Action: Flowering Journeys Mayslake Peabody Estate

A collaboration between the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the DuPage Monarch Project is heading to the estate in May 2020.

To help fill the exhibit, Mayslake Peabody Estate will be welcoming submissions February 1– April 15, 2020 of prints, drawings, painting, photographs, or other hangable art that represent the theme of *Pollinators in Action: Flowering Journeys*. If they receive more works than space can accommodate, a panel of visual artists who teach at the estate will select the pieces to fill the show.

### How to Submit Artwork

Please fill out an online application form at [dupageforest.org/pollinators-in-action](http://dupageforest.org/pollinators-in-action) between February 1– April 15, 2020. Please submit one application for per piece, limit two pieces per artist. Subject matter must be Illinois or DuPage County inspired.

### 2020 Dates to Remember

Feb. 1–April 15, 2020 Online submissions due  
May 4, 6-8pm Artwork drop off  
Mayslake Peabody Estate  
1717 W 31st St., Oak Brook, IL  
May 6-29, 2020 Gallery Hours  
Mon-Fri, Noon-3pm  
Saturday, 9am-1pm  
May 29, 2020 Artist Reception  
6-8 pm  
June 1, 2020 Artwork Pick-up  
6-8pm





## Community Garden Harvest Party

The end of a most successful growing season was celebrated with the annual Harvest Fest at the Community Gardens on a bright, sunny Sunday afternoon in September. Several of our members brought goodies to share with everyone and we all enjoyed chatting with Master Gardeners and members of the community. Our "Plot to Plate" garden still had items to be harvested as did many of the other plots around. The rain garden was in full bloom, as was the pollinator garden with bees and butterflies in evidence.

Several of our members have their own plots, including Carole Lockerbie, Bobbi Pulido, Akhila Meda and Laurie Dring. The garden club plot was cared for by many of our members during the year and overseen by Gail Sanders and her able committee for which we send our thanks. The garden yielded 404 lbs. of fresh produce, all of which went to the Bloomingdale Food Pantry.

This Community Garden is one of the Club's highest achievements and we should all be truly proud of our endeavors not only in introducing the idea to the Park District but in continuing to participate fully throughout the year.

Thanks to Joe Potts and Tania in his office for all their wonderful encouragement and co-operation.



Gail Sanders



L-R: Carole Lockerbie, Joe Potts



L-R: Sue Peelo, Joyce Basel, Mary Ellen Johnson



L-R: Laurie Dring, Eileen Spaman, Gail Sanders, Joyce Basel and Linda Kunesh

## Make A Difference Day

Although it started off quite chilly, Saturday October 19th turned out quite beautiful, and a number of our club members joined others at the pavilion in Springfield Park for the annual "Make a Difference" day clean up and seed harvesting.

We were welcomed by Carrie Fullerton, Executive Director, of the Bloomingdale Park District together with Joe Potts and staff. This event is hosted by Wolff Construction and Bill and Natalie do a marvelous job each year - with coffee to warm us up to start and then a delicious chili afterwards. We met Seth and Evan from Pizzo - the organization responsible for the project of overhauling and rejuvenating the wetland in this park. These two young guys sorted us into groups - those for harvesting seed, others for repairing and weeding and for the younger and more energetic, picking up and cleaning.

It was a fun morning, most of the garden club members were engaged in harvesting seeds from the grasses and wild flowers - some filled their bags quickly while others had to search for the more elusive plants. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were quick to say that they would volunteer again next year. In fact it would be wonderful if an even bigger contingent from our club could participate in the future - this is a truly worthwhile project.

A big thanks to Wolff Construction for hosting the event and for feeding us!! And also to Sean and Seth from Pizzo who were so engaging and so ready to teach us about this wetland.



Joyce Basel & Akhila Meda



Carole Lockerbie



Jennifer Moore



## Waiting for Santa

A group met at Prestige Creative Markets on Saturday, November 16 to shop and have a visit with Santa.



L-R: Maureen Gibson, Linda Kunesh, Joan Skotleski, Joyce Basel, Cathy Gall, Jennifer Moore and Akhila Meda.



Our fearless leader, Joyce Basel.

## Celebrating Our Seniors

Members gathered at Jameson's on November 18 to celebrate our three most senior members.



L-R: Jo Dabrowski, Esther Ahlrich, Vivian Krotz



L-R: Carole Lockerbie, Joyce Basel, Jo Dabrowski, Cathy Kreis, Esther Ahlrich, Jennifer Moore, Vivian Krotz, Cathy Gall, Henia Sullivan, Linda Kunesh and Joan Skotleski.



Jo shared tastes of her French Martini with Joyce and others.

*“A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature.”*



*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## Christmas Party Photos

We gathered at Jameson's on Tuesday, December 10 for a delightful Christmas party. The food was delicious, the white elephant gifts were fun and the fellowship with one another was superb. Here are some photos:



L-R: Kathryn Kacalo, Laurie Dring, Joan Skotleski, Marilyn Buckholt, Henia Sullivan, Linda Kunesh, Sherri Buckholt, Cathy Gall

L-R: Barbara Weisenburger, Akhila Meda, Mary Sue Fornari, Sandy Kappeler, Joe Boccuzzi. Not pictured, Chris Magnatowski



L-R: Tim Moore, Jennifer Moore, Dave Gibson, Cathy Kreis, Maureen Gibson, Bobbi Pulido and Esther Ahlrich



## Christmas Party Photos Continued



L-R: Carole Lockerbie, Peggy Laraia, Susan Shore, Cheryl Svie, Bob Harris, Jeff Dengler

L-R: Bev Petrosius, Beverly Miotke, Janiel Price, Debbie Matuszak, Linda Steck, Andy Matuszak, Jamie Schneck, Al Schneck



### Farewell from your Publisher....

As this is my last edition of The Trowel before I move out of the area, I wanted to thank you all for your support over the last seven years. Hard to believe! It has been my pleasure to publish this quarterly newsletter, but I couldn't have done it without all of your article submissions and photos.

Jamie Schneck has made her desire known to publish this going forward. This will be decided at the January business meeting. I know that she will do an amazing job.

Love in Gardening, Catherine Kreis



## Snowman Project for West Suburban Care Center

32 members, friends and guests attended the November 19 meeting where we put together 55 snowman centerpieces for the nursing home. It was a messy, but very fun project. I'm sure these will bring joy to the nursing home's dining tables during the Christmas season. This craft, while easy, required a lot of planning and gathering of supplies. Thank you to Laurie Dring and her helper, Joan Skotleski, for their time and effort.

Note from Laurie Dring....

Dear Members,

From Henia's transfer of "how to", to team leaders "dry run", actual event, cleanup and transportation to West Suburban Nursing & Rehab, I want to thank you all very much for your enthusiastic contribution that made this a successful event. All the snowmen were terrific !!!!



Bobbi Pulido working on her masterpiece.



Guests, Phyllis Pease and Bev Benjamin, showing off their snowmen.



Jamie Schneck's festive snowman and Mike McElroy's, bearded snowman.



This fun group decorated the garden club's tree at the Bloomingdale Library's Snowman Crossing.

L-R: Kirt Shore, Susan Shore, Joyce Basel, Cathy Gall, Akhila Meda, Carole Lockerbie, Henia Sullivan and Jennifer Moore.

It's a beauty!



## Good Cheer-Member Concerns

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

**Joe Boryla and Linda Martin are dealing with health concerns. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.**

**\*\*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



## Travel News

### A Repositioning Cruise -

There's a value - in the Field of Travel - that comes along every year! It's called the repositioning cruise. This means that a ship is moving from the current market that it services, to the coming/future market that it will be servicing! The value of a cruise that is in the process of repositioning can make a very interesting cruise affordable! These ships fill up very quickly because they take in a lot of ports of call and they offer a highly reduced rate as the repositioning takes a longer itinerary than usual. This type of cruise will appeal to those who are fully retired, in good health, and want to cross off a number of cities that they have listed on their 'bucket list'!

Travel Techniques has blocked space on the MSC - Divina Ship from the 3rd of January to the 29th, 2021! Yes, that is more than 1 year from now! The ship will sail from Marseilles, France to Miami and offers 16 Ports of Call along the way, including ports in France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, with 4 stops in the Caribbean. The cost for a balcony cabin, based on double occupancy is a total of \$4,770.64 per couple, taxes are included....for the cruise only!

If you are interested, just call me, Marilyn Dattillo, at Travel Techniques - 630-671-0750.

## Bloomington Garden Club

Meeting Location:  
Cornerstone Faith Community 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](http://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.



*"In the noisy confusion of life, keep  
peace in your soul."*

*—Max Ehrmann*