BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Greetings from our **President**



Joyce Basel

"Deep in their roots, all flowers keep the light."

Theodore Roethke



Hello Dear Members and Friends,

What a dreary spring this has been—way too much rain; too many gloomy days, NO Flower and Plant Sale, and NO monthly meetings!! I do so miss all of you and hope you know that your Board and I are feeling the effects of not seeing you, not enjoying the camaraderie of our meetings, the hum of friendly conversation and the delicious goodies that tempt us every month.

With all of that said I do have some really nice news and am happy to have the opportunity to share it with you here.

As all of you know, our traditional Flower and Plant Sale, which we all eagerly await each year and which is enjoyed not only by us, but also by our many customers from far and wide, had to be cancelled due to the Corona Virus. However, as you also know, a large portion of our sales are due to the pre-sale orders that are placed as early as February each year. Your Plant Sale Committee labored over whether or not to cancel these pre-sale orders as well, but they were persuaded to delay a decision in the hope that we might yet be able to at least deliver to these loyal customers.

Our Club did what no other club in the area was able to do! We made a lot of people very very happy, by being able to deliver their plants to them!

Linda Kunesh will report fully to you in this respect, but I want to take this opportunity to thank her, and her Committee, for the long hours, the arguments for and against, and their combined efforts to make this delivery happen.

In an incredible gesture of cooperation, the Bloomingdale Park District agreed to allow us the use of the maintenance building to unload the plants, sort the special orders for individual pick up, and then deliver to the customers in their cars at assigned times. We were committed to abide by all the rules and restrictions imposed by the Governor of Illinois and the Park District themselves. The Committee and a small group of club members worked tirelessly to accomplish what I consider a "minor miracle."

And, you will recall, that in April I asked all of you for a vote to permit the Board to donate flowers to the Park District in view of the fact that the severe lack of revenue this year,

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The Bloomingdale 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.

(cont'd from page 1)

would have denied them the opportunity to beautify our parks. I am delighted to tell you that you overwhelmingly gave this approval (32 voted yes, only 5 voted no)!! Because of the fact that they enabled us to make this pre-sale delivery/pick up, we made a small profit and have been able to donate flowers for planting in Old Town Park and at the Museum. I am so proud of all of you! This is a wonderful thing for us to be able to do and, in a small way, it shows our appreciation of the truly exceptional relationship we enjoy with our Park District. Thank you!!!

Most of you will know that our Memorial Garden is in Old Town Park and this year several of our members have volunteered to help with the planting of our garden and assisting to maintain it during summer. Again, our Club truly steps up to the plate when necessary and, again, Thank you!

As summer comes and you have the opportunity to visit the Park and enjoy the beauty of the flowers, take pride in knowing that you helped make this happen and that many of our neighbors will be uplifted during these stressful times.

I would like to mention that our most senior member Vivian Krotz has returned home after a short stay in an assisted living facility in Schaumburg. It will be her 98th birthday on Sunday June 7th—if you have not sent her a little message, please think about doing so. Even if you don't know her, she will be delighted to know that members of the Club are

I want to end this message echoing what I said at the beginning. I really miss all of you. I hope that my little messages cheered you and I sincerely look forward to the day when we will be able to meet again and enjoy the wonderful friendships that we share.

Please stay safe and healthy,

thinking about her.

Joyce

Monthly Meeting Cancellations

Our monthly meetings have presently been cancelled due to the restrictions in place for social gatherings. We are sad we have not been able to meet and hope that all of you are safe and healthy sheltering in place at this time. Notification will be sent via email as soon as we know how we can resume. Here's hoping that we can all be together at our June meeting!



Foggy Glasses Wearing Masks?

When you exhale warm air without wearing a mask, it dissipates into the atmosphere. When you do it wearing a mask, it tends to shoot straight up into your bifocals, fogging them up.

The Rx: Wash your glasses in soapy water and allow them to air dry. The film should prevent fogging.

"Another tactic is to consider the fit of your face mask, to prevent your exhaled breath from reaching your glasses," reports the AARP. "An easy hack is to place a folded tissue between your mouth and the mask. The tissue will absorb the warm, moist air, preventing it from reaching your glasses. Also, make sure the top of your mask is tight and the bottom looser, to help direct your exhaled breath away from your eyes."

2020 Flower & Plant Sale a CHALLENGE but also a SUCCESS!

Linda Kunesh (photos by Cathy Gall, Jamie Schneck)

After all the hours of meetings, planning, ordering, etc., etc., our 2020 Flower & Plant Sale turned into a Pre-Sale Order Pick-Up only! And that had its own challenges! But we did our best, and we believe we rose to the occasion!



A week before the Pick-Up, Rental Max informed us that the company was increasing our cost by 55% for the tables, including a delivery fee. We had reserved them in January. Needless to say, this was not appropriate and most likely illegal. Joyce contacted one of the men at Costco, Juan Garcia, whose family owns Unique Party Rental. They agreed to provide and deliver the tables at a price more than what we had planned to originally pay Rental Max but far less than what Rental Max now demanded. Our tables arrived on time. A big thanks to John Gall and Dennis





Bielecki for their help to set up the tables, along with the Flower & Plant Sale Committee.

On Wednesday, the Committee set up all the tables and the signage at the Park District Maintenance Building for the

Pre-Sale Order Pick Up. Given the Governor's directive and concerns from the Park District, we developed several procedures to try to keep everyone safe including having Club members at the bottom of the hill checking in people; scheduling a specific time for customers to get their order/shop; taking temperatures of those who entered the building; wearing face coverings; allowing for drive up/loading of pre-sale orders for anyone who did not want to shop; trying to maintain a 6 foot distance between people; and

having no more than 10 people in any one location, etc. Needless to say, hard as we tried, we were not successful all of the time — but we certainly did our best under very trying circumstances.



Our grower, Sunrise Greenhouse, had such a robust retail business this spring they were not able to provide our entire order as they sold out of many, many plants. As a result, some of our pre-sale order customers were given the option of selecting something else of similar value or getting a refund.



Even with all the challenges, we still were able to make a profit of \$1,700! Obviously it was thousands of dollars LESS than what we've made in the past. However, there are Silver linings: We did not take a loss! We are very proud that we are probably one of only two garden clubs in the area that even had any type of pre-sale order pick-up! We know we made a LOT of people very happy. All total, we had 64 pre-sale orders; 25% of those were from Club members. We were able to donate left over plants to The Garden Works Project, along with WINGS. No plants went to DuPage Care Center as the facility is still closed due to Covid-19.



Our very special THANKS go to: Joe Potts, Executive Director of the Bloomingdale Park District; Mesha Hadzic, Assistant Director of Parks and Planning, Bloomingdale Park District; John Gall;



Dennis Bielecki; Ed Skotleski; Park District Maintenance personnel, Justin Eirich & Matthew Thomson; and the many Garden Club members that came out to help!

We are already excited for 2021

and are getting back on track to host our traditionally spectacular Flower & Plant Sale!

Your 2020 Flower & Plant Sale Committee

Joyce Basel Cathy Gall Kathryn Kacalo Catherine Kreis Linda Kunesh Jennifer Moore Jamie Schneck Joan Skotleski Henia Sullivan Cheryl Svee Kelly Vitacco





Plot-to-Plate Garden Spring 2020

Gail Sanders

Despite all of the restrictions in place and the cool spring, the Plot-to-Plate Garden is being planted. After a pre-COVID planning meeting, the committee has had to work as individuals rather than a team as we would prefer.

Onions were ordered and came in early in April. My husband, Joe, helped me measure the sections of the garden and put down the straw between the areas so the onions could get planted. Peas were put in at this time too. Because of the weather, things have been growing very slowly. The thyme and garlic that had been planted last year are doing very well.

Radish, lettuce, spinach, carrot, turnip, and beets seeds along with kale and cabbage transplants have gone in. Some seedlings are actually coming up and hopefully warmer weather will coax along some more. By June the tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, basil, parsley, lemon grass, sage, oregano transplants should be in the ground. Seeds for beans, cucumbers, winter squash, and zucchini will be planted as well as starts for potatoes and sweet potatoes. Everything is being done with one of us there at a time.

Once everything is in, we will need your help with weeding and watering. As we have done for the past few years, we are asking club members to sign up for a week (or two) to keep the Club's garden going.

Please email me at **sandersgvjp@comcast.net** to let me know your availability.

If you could give me a choice of dates you would be available and the number of weeks you would be willing to work, I will fill in the schedule on a first-come first-scheduled basis (i.e. one week; June 22-28 or August 24-30). Once I assign you to a week(s) I will email you back with your assignment. While there may be two people assigned to a week, you are asked to work solo until restrictions are lifted. When it is your week, I will email you with details about what needs to be done and anyone else assigned so you can work out details.



The available dates are (Monday to Sunday):

June 1 - 7

June 8 - 14

June 15 - 21

June 22 - 28

June 29 - July 5

July 6 - 12

July 13 - 19

July 20 - 26

July 27 - August 2

August 3 - 9

August 10 - 16

August 17 - 23

August 24 - 30

August 31 - September 6

September 7 - 13

September 14 - 20

September 21 - 27

September 28 - October 4



Thank you for being patient with me with this awkward sign up procedure.

Food Pantries in Need

There will be a great need for donated fresh produce this year at area food pantries. Our club will not be distributing anything from the "Donation Station" at the community gardens. In the past people would leave produce from their garden and we would take it when we went to the food pantry. We will not be doing that this year. Everyone has to drop off their own donation. This is a list of nearby food pantries. We want to encourage members to make donations of extra veggies they might grow.



Experiment we are trying with up-sidedown waste baskets over the cabbage plants in an effort to thwart cabbage moths.

Food Pantry	Address	Phone #	Hours of operation
Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry	123 Rosedale Rd Bloomingdale	630 529-9993	Mon - Fri 8:30 - 4:30
Muslim Society Inc	1785 Bloomingdale Rd Glendale Hts	630 653-7872	Sat 2 - 4
Medinah Baptist Church	900 Foster Ave, Medinah	630 980-9421	Every other Sat 8 - 9:30
Hands of Hope Food Pantry	5700 Bartles Rd Hanover Park	630 671-1570	Tue 4 - 7
Itasca Food Pantry	336 Center St, Itasca	800 621-7615 ex 535	Sat 9 - 11
Feeding NW DuPage Church of the Master	580 Kuhn Rd, Carol Stream	630 665-5188	Mon - Thurs 10 -1
Interfaith Pantry – Wheaton	345 President St Carol Stream	630 665-6426	Mon, Wed 9 -12; Tues, Thus 12 - 3
Family in Faith Church Glendale Hts	1480 Bloomingdale Rd	630 315-4012	Wed 3 - 6; Sat 9 - 12 every other week
Roselle Methodist Church	206 Rush St, Roselle	630 529-1309	Sat 9:30 - 11:30
Resurrection Catholic Church	Army Trail Rd West of Rte 59, Wayne	630 289-2510	Mon & Thurs 10 - 1; Tues 1 - 4; Sat 8:30 - 11
123 Freemont	123 Fremont St West Chicago	630 293-4958	Mon 3 - 6; Wed - Fri 10 - 1; Sat 9 - 12
Wayne Township	27W031 North Ave, West Chicago	630 231-7173 ex 199	Wed 10 - 2

Fu Mei's Garden!

Joyce Basel and Marilyn Dattilo

Right here in Bloomingdale there exists a little "Patch of Paradise" known to those who have had the privilege to visit it as Fu Mei's Garden! Fu Mei—a tiny, energetic and super-human gardener created this wonderful jewel of a garden over a period of many years. In every direction the eye is drawn to the myriad of different plants, art, and arbors. Color abounds no matter what time of year you visit and, at the moment, the tree peonies are in bloom!

Long time member, Marilyn Dattilo mentioned to me recently that Fu Mei's garden was flooded with about 4 ft. of water. She had offered to help, (so did I) but Fu Mei declined saying that the water would recede (if it ever stopped raining)! And she would repair in due course. At the same time, she again invited club members to visit whenever they felt like doing so! This open invitation is all the more remarkable as she is most often not there, but the gates are open—and the "Welcome" signs are sincere.

Marilyn also mentioned that the fountain in her own garden was in desperate need of repair and, after approaching several nurseries as well as land-scaping companies, none of whom could help, she sought advice from Fu Mei! Two days later the fountain was whole again in perfect working order! And if you visit Fu Mei's little "patch of paradise" you are not at all surprised about anything that this wonderful woman can do.

I took the opportunity to pop over today to see what was blooming at the moment and take a few pictures for this edition of the Trowel. Aside from the most marvelous tree peonies, I found various allium, several different species of iris, mountain bluett, lilacs and so much more!

When the world returns to normal again, Fu Mei has extended to our members the invitation to visit her garden once more. When you do visit, you will renew your faith in nature and be inspired.

Thank you Fu Mei!!











Joan's Rhododendrons

Joan Skotleski

I love, love, LOVE azaleas and rhododendrons! Short ones, tall ones; pink, purple, yellow, coral, white, evergreen or deciduous, I love them all. In Pennsylvania, where I grew up, they came into bloom after the witch hazels and the forsythia and before the lilacs. I knew to hang our hummingbird feeders when the PJM rhodie in my front foundation bed opened its lilac flower buds for the little guys.



I loved rhodies and azaleas so much I planted a number of them around my first house in Philadelphia. I was working for a garden center at the time and learned a lot from the owners who took seriously their

mission to sell the right plant for the right site. They taught me to ask questions of the customers to help them choose a rhododendron for their homes.

I moved out of Philadelphia to my second home in Southern Chester County, PA. I was fortunate enough to be within 15 miles of one of the US's most beautiful horticultural treasures, Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. I took courses at Longwood in many areas of horticulture but I particularly favored the courses on woody landscape plants. We had multiple fieldtrips to study plants in public and private gardens and also in native habitats. I know that is where I got the most information on how to choose, care and enjoy even further rhododendron and azalea.

I moved to Bloomingdale, Illinois in May 2017. I did not do much gardening the first year I was here because I wanted to let the previous owners' work guide me. I was very fortunate to meet members of the Bloomingdale Garden Club at that summer's Farmers Market in downtown Bloomingdale. I thought the Garden Club members would be able to educate me on which plants, trees and shrubs would do well in my new home. Unfortunately, I did not make it to any Club meetings until April 2018. And you all know what the April meeting of the Bloomingdale Garden Club is all about, right? PLANT SALE!!!! Well, I volunteered and have been having so much fun ever since! So many members have freely shared their experience, advice, and even plants. I have been truly encouraged to continue playing in the dirt in Illinois and for that I am truly grateful. Thank you.

So when I was asked to contribute some information to our Club members on the care of rhododendrons in Chicagoland I couldn't refuse. I returned to my old workbooks and textbooks from Longwood.

Pennsylvania has a temperature range similar to Chicago. The winters are cold and the summers are hot. The length of each season seems to differ considerably. Spring really does come later to Chicagoland and is much shorter and wetter. The soil is different, too. My homes in PA had soil that was more porous; my Illinois home soil seems more clayey.

I mention these differences so I can explain my suggestions for rhododendron care in my new home state.

Location—I was taught that rhodies are understory shrubs meaning they benefit from being shaded from the summer sun. Morning sun helps to dry the dew from them. Afternoon sun, unless

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they are shaded, can dry them out. They are usually not full sun shrubs.

Soil—Rhododendrons and azaleas grow best in loose, loamy soil. Some sphagnum peat moss and aged compost added to Illinois soil help to keep the roots from suffocating. I have even added perlite and vermiculite to the plantings around my house's foundation to help break up the clay.

Fertilizer—I used Hollytone for my plants in PA and they seemed to like it.

Wind—I like them close to buildings, fences or some kind of windbreak. Even though most are evergreen, the wind can damage their leaves.

Rhododendrons and azaleas are relatively shallow rooted plants. They benefit from being planted properly. That means not too deep. Plant them so they are about an inch above the soil line. Then cover with about 2 inches of mulch. Keep mulch away from the branches.

Pruning-—I try to select plants whose mature shape and size fit where I wanted them to be. I am lazy when it comes to pruning so for me, planning for mature shape and size reduces the heavy work in my garden.

I also tried to plant for different bloom times throughout the spring. My husband was always disappointed when one particularly beautiful display came to an end. His disappointment faded when he saw the next shrub strutting it's' stuff.

I hope this is helpful to all who enjoy the Ericaceae family the way I do. There are so many varieties and cultivars to explore. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for the opportunity to think and talk about some of my very favorite plants.



GARDENING HELP

Linda Kunesh

I've had the pleasure of employing two outstanding young men who are available to help with yard work (clean up, weeding, planting/transplanting, power washing), spreading mulch, and putting up the roof on my garden house. I believe they are willing to do any type of job (inside or outside) you may have within reason. You most likely would need to provide all tools and supplies.

Depending on the job, their fee starts at \$20/ hour for each of them. They are extremely conscientious, polite, hard working, and leave their cell phones in the car!

I hope you'll contact Roger Jenisch (630-740-4379 or at rogerjenish@yahoo.com) and his buddy, Mike McNally, as the need arises. I think you will be extremely happy with their work.

For Those Who've Lost Loved Ones



"You know what's really wonderful about those fireflies? . . . not much at all in the grand scheme of things. But while they're there, the beauty of them, well, it takes your breath away . . . you get to see the world in a whole new way.

And then you have that beautiful picture burned onto the inside of your head. To carry it wherever you go, and never forget it. Maybe that's the thing we need to understand . . . that some things are a gift, even if we don't get to keep them. Maybe just to know that something this beautiful exists is all we can really ask for."

From the *The Giver of the Stars* by Jojo Mayes

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

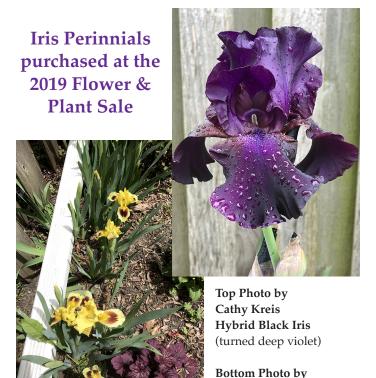
On April 19th 1963, seven women met at the home of Mrs. A.H. McClure. Those present included: Mrs. Mary Dreng, Mrs. Irving A. Gustafson, Mrs. William J. McKenzie, Mrs. Milton Roberts, Mrs. Louis C. Schultz and Mrs. Robert Wickman.

It was decided that a garden club would be "helpful to the members and in time a benefit to our community"

Mrs. Flora Roberts was the first President. Dues were set at 50¢ per month, or \$6.00 per year!



Remember to contact Joyce Basel to get your business cards to pass out and door hangers to complement your neighbors on their great gardens!



Iennifer Moore

Minature Iris

The Travel Corner

I've been involved and employed in the field of travel for over 52 years. I truly thought I had seen it all going from days we physically wrote airline tickets to computer issued airline tickets, and when we mailed weekly air reports in shoe boxes due to the tremendous volume of tickets we issued. However, COVID-19 takes the cake for what I've seen in the Industry!

The good news is the value to the future traveling public is tremendous. If you are presently booked on a cruise, be patient and see if the cruise line is going to cancel your cruise sailing date. Then you will get a 125% future travel credit. Some cruise lines are offering an additional 20% off if you book your future cruising date within the time frame offered by the cruise line, which is usually two weeks from the cruise line's cancellation date.

Travel Techniques will survive. I've been working from home for over 10 years. My best travel advice for you for now is, limit your travel to what is deemed truly necessary only. Let's stay healthy for our future travel adventures.

Peace, Marilyn **Travel Techniques** PH 630-671-0750

GARDEN FUNNIES (TeeHee!



I was in my garden and the neighbor looked over the fence and said . . . "What are you doing?"

> "I'm putting all my plants in alphabetical order ..."

She replied, "Really? I don't know how you find the time . . !"

Oh that's easy I said, "It's right next to the sage."

Notes of Gratitude



Dear Garden Club Members and Dear Friends,

I want to convey to you all my deepest appreciation for the "Moving Party" and the parting gift in ad-

vance of our move to Indiana. The party was wonderful and the gift completely unexpected and generous.

The Covid-19 pandemic threw a very large curve ball into our move. We are still moving, but until we are comfortable putting our home on the market with strangers walking through, we simply have to postpone the move. We don't know for how long. It may be soon, but it could also be awhile.

I have made a donation to the club for the majority of the Visa gift card gift. I felt uncomfortable accepting it and even more so now that we aren't going anywhere! I have kept a portion that will cover the purchase of something really fun for our new home that will remind me always of this wonderful club and the many friendships I have made here.

Love in Gardening, Catherine Kreis

Dear Garden Club Members,

Just a little note to say
Thank you very much—
When it comes to pleasing people,
You have the perfect touch!

Thank you so much for coming to my reception and the BEAUTIFUL flower arrangement! I love it!

It's been wonderful working with your group. I wish you continued success in all that you do! I'm going to miss all of you! Thanks again!

Carrie Fullerton XOXOXO

Our Garden Club donated \$50 in flowers and plants to WINGS to plant at their "safe houses." WINGS provides emergency housing for women and their kids who experience domestic violence.

Dear Bloomingdale Garden Club,

Thank you so much for having your Fundraiser during this crazy time. The flowers will brighten everyone's day.

Tabitha, WINGS Program



Recently the Steering Committee for the Community Gardens presented Joe Potts with a very colorful "vegetable design" tie. It was a simple "thank you" to him for all he has done for us with regard to the community garden. This is the note Joyce received from Joe:

Dear Joyce,

I want to thank the Bloomingdale Garden Club for their generous gift and the relationship I feel it represents. I'm not wild about wearing neck ties, but the next time I need one, I will be happy to reach for my beautiful new tie from the Club.

the Bloomingdale Garden Club and the Community Garden Committee have been so generous with their expertise and their endless energy to beautify and help others beautify their homes and communities.

The Bloomingdale Park districe is very grateful for this strong relationship with our community's important and energized Garden club. We look forward to continuing to work together in the future.

Respectfully, Joe



2020 Club Officers and Committees

*President Joyce Basel
*1st Vice President Henia Sullivan/ (Membership) Cathy Gall
*2nd Vice President Laurie Dring (Programs)
Program Committee Joan Skotleski
*3rd Vice President Linda Kunesh (Ways and Means)
*Treasurer Cheryl Svee
*Publicity Jamie Schneck (Promotions, Trowel, and Website)
Publicity Committee
Facebook Cathy Gall
Facebook
-
Website Support Dan Vitacco
Website Support
Website Support
Website Support
Website Support

Let Us Hear From You: jschneck1233@sbcglobal.net Phone: 630-372-6003

Posting Months:

March, June, September and December

OUR VISION

To educate members and the community about gardening through informative and educational meetings, workshops and activities

- To develop and promote projects for civic beautification and environmental stewardship
- To support philanthropic endeavors which aid the residents of the Bloomingdale community and surrounding areas
- To provide opportunities for fellowship for those interested in gardening and environmental and civic responsibility
- To aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds
- To further the extermination of invasive and/or noxious plants

MEMBERSHIP

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 through June 30.

Half year dues for a single new member are \$10, and \$12.50 per couple when paid July 1st through December 31st.

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.

Meeting Location:

The 3rd Tuesday of each month. Social time and announcements at 6:15. Program begins at 7 PM. Cornerstone Faith Community Church 118 S. First Street, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

Contact Us At:

bloomingdalegardenclub@gmail.com

We're On The Web:

bloomingdalegardenclub.org