

The Trowel



September 2020
Volume 8, Issue 3

BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Greetings from our **President**



"A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

An old Proverb

Hello dear Members and Friends,

I cannot tell you how delighted I was last Tuesday when we finally had a "real" meeting with a "real" live outside speaker!! How nice it was to see all of you—I counted about 22 or so members and we all enjoyed an entertaining evening and a fun time seeing each other again. In the large room at the church we were able to social distance the chairs, everyone wore a mask and Henia did a great job taking temperatures!! Wow is the world a different place at the moment—nevertheless, it was lovely to see everyone.

In our last Trowel, I wrote a short article about Fu Mei's lovely garden and we thought it might be an idea to try to highlight a member's garden in each publication. Our Editor, Jamie, always has "big" ideas with these things and she felt a walk through our various gardens might be an idea for this edition! I had thought to give you a little history about the Club's gardens, and might try for some "history" at a later time. Meanwhile, Gail and Jennifer have stepped up to give you information about the Community (Plot-to-Plate) Garden

and Old Towne and Memorial Gardens. Thanks so much to both of them for their incredible efforts on behalf of the club.

We have all been busy in our gardens this year with Covid keeping us closer to home—and in some instances—at home for lengthy periods of time. So I am sure you are going to enjoy seeing some of your friends' gardens here. My own garden is a crapshoot this year—it is the first summer in my new little townhouse and I am still not sure how much sun/shade there is during each day. My pots are gorgeous with Rex begonias, coleus and beautiful caladiums. My beds are a disaster!!

Anyway, I cannot wait to see what is in store in this edition of our Trowel—it is a newsletter of which we are very proud and is the envy of many other clubs around. Thank you Jamie!!

I do hope that you are all safe and well and that we will manage to have our normal meetings in the months to come and see even more of you there.

Please stay safe and healthy,

Joyce

WELCOME BACK!

The Garden Club had not held a regular meeting since February, but on June 16th, President Joyce Basel invited those who felt comfortable being together, to meet out on the lawn at Cornerstone Faith Community Church. Thirteen members enjoyed an evening of camaraderie and all agreed that they were delighted to see each other again.

Again keeping our distance and wearing masks, we've had meetings on July 21st with 18 members and August 18th, with 22 members attending. In July, Laurie Dring, our Program Chairperson, made an interesting and amusing presentation on all she does with the tomatoes she grows and harvests. Club member, Kirt Shore, was also truly entertaining and informative with his outstanding talk on lawn care. Our August meeting presenter, Carol Cichorski, inspired us to think outside the box, express individuality and creativity in our gardens.

Please join us on September 15th when Heather Prince will be our speaker on Native Plants for Small Gardens. October 20th, Leslie Goddard will present Rachel Carson's, "The Modern Spring Birth of the Modern Ecology Movement" (the beauty and fragility of nature). Nov. & Dec. TBA

Masks came off for a QUICK photo of club members left to right: Hector Rivera, Linda Steck, Kurt and Susan Shore, Mary Sue Fornari, Laurie Dring, Joyce Basel, Joe Baccuzzi, Jeff Dengler, Kathryn Kacalo, Jennifer Moore, and seated, Sandy Kappeler.



IN THIS ISSUE

President's Greeting	1
Welcome Back.	2
A Garden Experiment	3
Flower and Plant Sale Thoughts	3
Plot-to-Plate & Community Garden Sign	4

A WALK THROUGH OUR GARDENS

Joyce Basel, Jeff Dengler	5
Cathy Gall, Linda Kunesh	6
Cathy Kreis, Carole Lockerbie, Jennifer Moore	7
Heather Peiotrowski, Gail Sanders	8
Jamie Schneck, Linda Steck.	9
Cheryl Svec	9 & 10

OUR GARDEN FRIENDS

Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Spiders	10
Cantigny Butterfly Tagging	10
Travel Corner	11
Thank You & FREE Perennials.	11
About the Club & Officers & Committees	12

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.

An Experiment

By Cheryl Svee

Early in the spring, I spotted an article that intrigued me: "You've Been Growing Zucchini All Wrong." Well, zucchini is one of my favorite vegetables, so I had to see what this was about! I opened the article and it starts with "Zucchini need to be pruned and staked. Like a tomato." Huh?! I've never heard of this! Reading on, the idea is to train the zucchini to vine up a support: a tomato cage, a pole, etc. Similar to a cucumber climbing a trellis, but the zucchini does not have tendrils to grasp onto something, so you have to help it along by tying it up. Further, you are to remove all leaves that are beneath the first zucchini. Developing zucchini gain all their energy from ONLY the leaves growing above them. The leaves below are just taking energy away from the rest of the plant. Also, removing the lower leaves promotes air circulation and helps to prevent powdery mildew and other soil-borne diseases. In addition, since you are growing the zucchini vertically, and removing those lower leaves, there will be no more giant zucchini hiding under those leaves sprawled out all over the ground!

So, I decided I have to give this method a try, both at home and at our Plot-to-Plate garden. I found it was easier to spot and destroy squash bug eggs for one, and indeed powdery mildew is virtually nonexistent. I can't say my yield has increased, but it is nice



to see the zucchini hanging there, just waiting to be picked and not laying on the ground. It does take up less space too! Here is the original article: <https://www.theartofdoingstuff.com/youve-been-growing-your-zucchini-all-wrong/>

How Are Your Flowers and Plants?

While our traditional plant sale was not available this year due to Covid-19, we hope we still were able to bring you some joy through our Pre-Sale Orders. Please take a few minutes and send an email to Linda (kunesh310@comcast.net) or make a call (630-221-8684) to let her know which flowers and plants did well, which did not (include a reason if you know why), and what you would like the Bloomingdale Garden Club Flower & Plant Sale Committee to consider offering next year. Not everything is available to us, but we'll do our best to get you what you want. Thanks.



Consider A Pre-Sale Order Next Year

While it's too early to tell you if we will have our traditional Flower & Plant Sale in 2021, we certainly are optimistic. That said, we hope you will also consider submitting a pre-sale order in late winter or early spring. (Date to-be-determined.) By doing so, you save money and have a greater chance of getting what you want. We also acknowledge, though, that even with pre-sale ordering, we are not guaranteed to get everything we order. One of the results of the pandemic was that MANY more people shopped for flowers and plants this spring. Sunrise Greenhouse, Woldhuis Farms, which is our grower, experienced a tremendous uptick in purchases. This resulted in the Greenhouse selling out of many plants by early May.

We were delighted to deliver your pre-sale orders in May and look forward to a full traditional Flower & Plant Sale in 2021! As always, thanks for your support of the Bloomingdale Garden Club.

Plot-to-Plate Garden Summer 2020

Gail Sanders

The Plot-to-Plate Garden continues to be for many of us, a place to make a positive difference during this time with COVID restrictions. While we are not able to enjoy working together, we are making much-needed contributions to food pantries.



This season we are splitting our harvest between the Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry and the food Pantry at Family in Faith Church in Glendale Heights. Both pantries help feed our neighbors in Bloomingdale Township and have

let us know how much the fresh organic produce is appreciated.

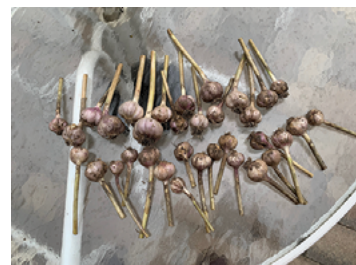
As of August 8th, we have split almost 175 pounds between the two sites! We have harvested and donated beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, herbs (basil, dill, lemon grass, parsley, oregano, thyme), kale, lettuce, onions, peas, sweet & hot peppers, potatoes, radishes, Swiss chard, tomatoes, turnips, and zucchini. If we can keep the squash bugs at bay, we will add winter squash to that list later in the season.

The “bean ladder” built by Kathy Mikutis’ son, the cabbage cages, and the squash arch have helped us improve our harvests. If you go out to the garden, you will have to check out Cheryl Svec’s attempt to grow zucchini vertically. It is a real space saver and is allowing us to plant more zucchini and yellow summer squash.

A big “thank you” to everyone who has offered to help weed and water. The lack of rain the last few weeks has made your help even more important.

The garden looks GREAT!

August 3rd harvest — our first garlic crop.



This is the half of the onion harvest going to the Bloomingdale Township food pantry.



At the spring board meeting of the Bloomingdale Garden Club, Gail Sanders asked if the Club would be willing to pay for a more durable sign for the Plot-to-Plate Garden. In the few years that we have been growing the gar-

den there have already been two signs and a new one was needed. Our signs have been painted on wood and made by club members. Despite coats of polyurethane, the weather has always taken its toll. The board gave its okay to start looking into a new sign. After initial investigation by Gail, Jamie Schneck took on the task and came up with a vendor and a new design. Approval to spend funds was made at the July meeting and within a few weeks we had a lovely sign for the garden.

Thank you to Jamie for getting the sign designed and ordered, to Concorde Sign Company in Elmhurst for producing the sign, and to Bloomingdale Park District maintenance staff for installing the poles that hold it up. It is a great way to let people know this garden exists because of our club!



Our Secret Gardens

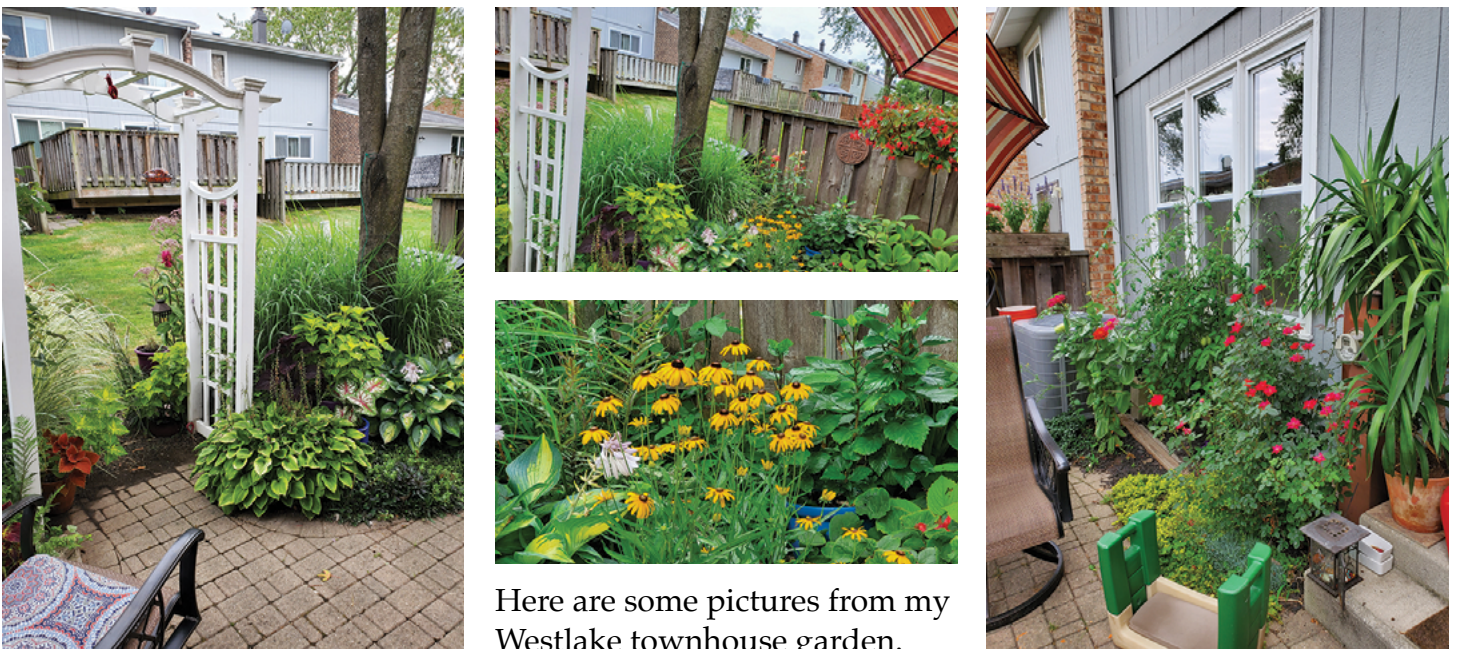
Take a walk through our gardens.

Joyce Basel



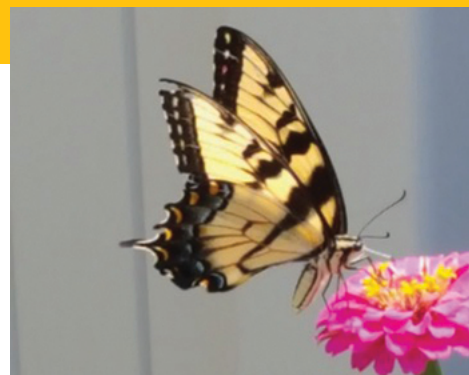
My pots are now looking very colorful with gorgeous Rex begonias and really lovely caladium.

Jeff Dengler



Here are some pictures from my Westlake townhouse garden.

Cathy Gall



Linda Kunesch



I've been working on redesigning my gardens for the past few years. A HUGE thanks to Leslie Mabbott for her incredible help and advice in redesigning my yard over this time. It truly was a jungle before! Now I think you can see the plants, although obviously MANY got larger in years two and three. And yes, that is a large pollinator garden in my front lawn! I absolutely love it and may actually make it larger. Who knows? Honey bees, bumble bees, butterflies, oh my!!!



My little 60-second video was accepted for the 60-Second Video Challenge sponsored by Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards.

If you go to the link below, it will take you to their YouTube page. On the top left side there is a place where you can view the videos and vote by saying you like the video via a thumbs up. There also is a more detailed description of the little contest. Go to <https://chicagogardeningawards.org/>

Linda's friend, Kathy Sudaz, a master-gardener, bought these plants at our pre-sale order pick-up. Kathy put together this beautiful arrangement that she said is outside on the north side of her house. She said it includes King Coleus, Rex Begonias, and Dichondra Silver Falls.

Cathy Kreis

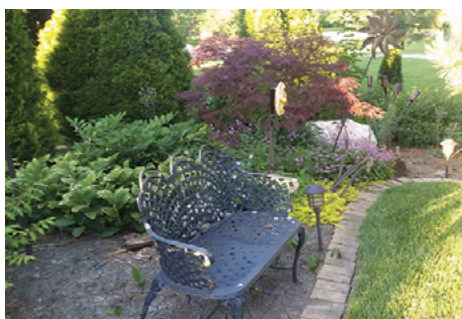
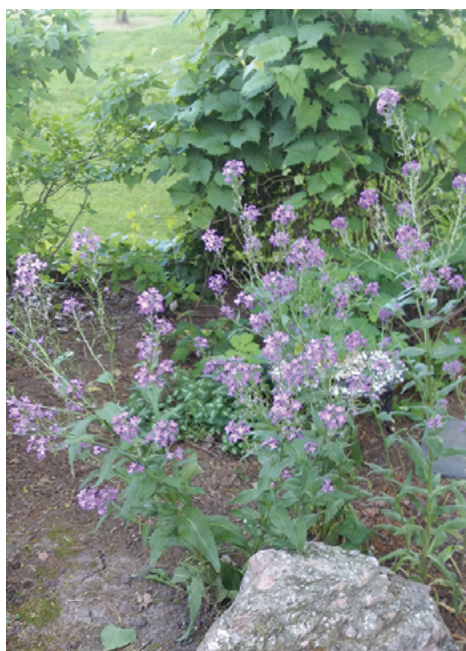


Sometimes
the smallest things
take up the most room
in your hearts.

Winnie the Pooh



Carole Lockerbie



Jennifer Moore - Bloomingdale Gardens

The gardens in the Bloomingdale Old Town and the Memorial Garden are being cared for by the Park District and four Garden Club members.

Many members helped to plant the gardens in the spring. We did assist in watering but now four members are maintaining the areas by keeping them weed free. Thanks to Laurie Johns, Susan Glick-Shore, Kelly Vitacco and Jennifer Moore.

Come admire the beautiful engraved boulder marking the garden acknowledging those members who have passed.



Heather Piotrowski

I've had a lot of tomatoes this year. I've made every recipe that I normally use with fresh tomatoes. Bruschetta, tomato sandwiches, fried green tomatoes, tomato soup, butter chicken, marinara, etc...

I still have so many growing that I'll have enough to can.

I am starting to change my garden focus to what will grow over winter. This will be my first year testing the winter garden. I'm starting new lettuce seedlings next week so by mid-September they will be ready to plant.

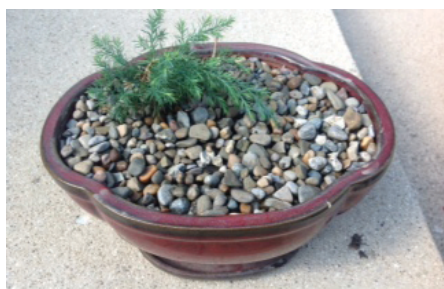


I started my garden out this year with new dirt. Nothing expensive. Generic in ground garden soil. In early spring I bought already started plants as soon as they were available from Caputos and put them in my small stand up greenhouse.

On nice enough days (still early spring) I would pull them out and let them take on the weather. Wind is good to strengthen their trunks. I planted in the first week of June. I do a kind of haphazard style of gardening. I plant my tomatoes on the points of a zigzag. I plant other things in spaces.

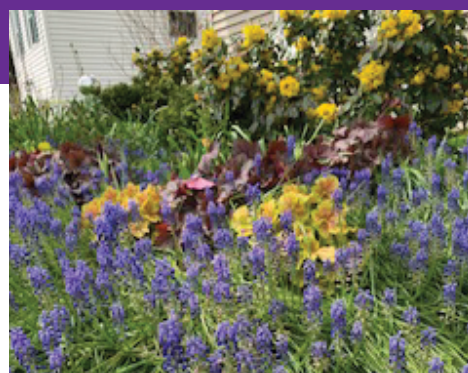
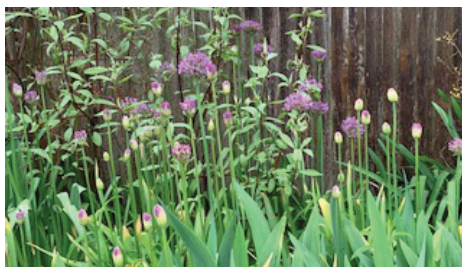
My tomatillos have really overrun the entire garden even growing intertwined with the tomatoes. Sometime in early July I cut all of the lower branches so that the rest of the plant could put its effort into the tomatoes that were already growing. The first few weeks I watered every 2 or 3 days. Otherwise I only water lightly when we have really hot days or no rain for a week.

My garden is in the bottom of my yard and full sun. I weed once a month. I have 6 plants—3 different varieties. This is the first year I haven't had a lot of loss from critters. The idea of the haphazard style is that it confuses pests. It worked for my tomatoes this year but not for my cabbages.



Bonsai! While doing some weeding on the side of my garage I found this little guy. My neighbor has a juniper bush near by so my guess is that it is a juniper. I used to have a small Japanese maple bonsai but when we moved I couldn't keep it. This pot is too big for the plant but with some luck and caring hopefully it will survive and grow into it. (plus, it's the only pot I had in my garage!)

Gail Sanders

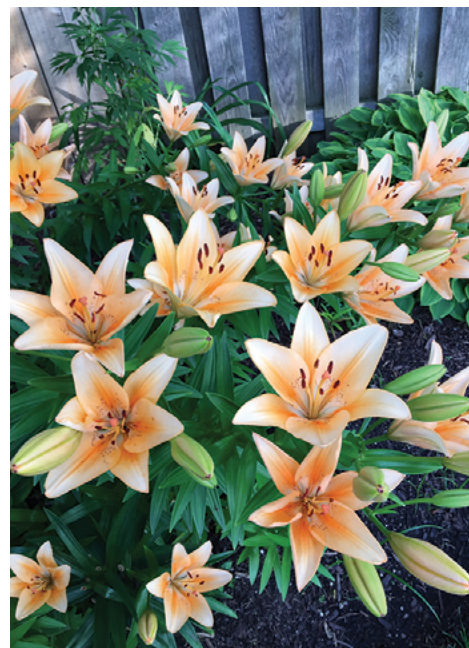


Our back yard garden in the Spring, alliums in May, and our front yard garden also in the Spring.

Jamie Schneck



Perennials, seasonal colors, and grandma's 60 year old peonies.



Linda Steck



Cheryl Svee



As many of you know, I am a perennial girl. I tuck a few annuals in my vegetable garden for color and to attract pollinators and that's about it. Well, since joining this club and being involved in the plant sale the past few years, I have been inspired to broaden my horizon and plant more annuals. Earlier in the summer, we had to cut down a failing cherry tree. Just at the right moment my husband, Dean, says "what should we do with the trunk?" It was then I had an "aha" moment and directed him where to cut. This was the end result. I couldn't be more pleased! I think this club has created a monster. I'm already planning my pre-order for next years' sale (and typically don't submit a pre-order!).

Cheryl Svec (cont'd)

Another plant sale success story! A couple of years ago, I adopted a pathetic-looking rudbeckia at the end of the sale. It ended up doing pretty well. I saved some seeds and planted it again last year and once again was happy with its performance. Well, that little baby reseeded itself and this year it is truly outstanding! Four feet tall and loaded with blooms!

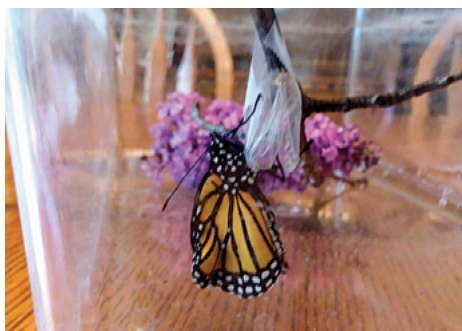


Garden Critters



Loriann & Ben Hoyle

Some of the flowers I ordered this spring were not available so I had to substitute with black and blue salvia. I wanted to let you know I was pleasantly surprised and very happy with my substitution when I found out a hummingbird likes to frequent this particular plant almost every day.



Linda Kunesch

Last fall, I found a Monarch chrysalis on the ground as I was cleaning up a clematis in front of my garage. I brought the chrysalis inside, taped it to a stick and placed it in a cage. Within a few days, this beautiful Monarch emerged and shortly after, I released it in my garden. I hope it got to Mexico!



Jamie Schneck

Spider webs stretched fine and strong
wave on the wind like an aolian song,
they shimmer and glimmer like
gossamer wings,
on the first streams of light that
morning brings,
bejeweled with dew like diamonds
so bright
dancing and rejoicing in mornings
first light.

by Kathy Clark

CANTIGNY BUTTERFLY TAGGING



Cantigny will have more areas open from the construction of Project New Leaf in September and will have Monarch Butterfly Tagging on September 10 and 24 (both Thursdays) at 1 pm. The session is free with paid parking. Pat Miller, a DuPage Master Gardener and guru of monarchs, will lead the hour. Pat has been to Mexico a number of times and has seen the monarchs' habitat there. She will be very informative.

The Visitors Center and Cantigny Shop are now open from 9 am to 5 pm with capacity limits. Bertie's Bistro hours are 9:30 am to 4 pm. Table service, on the patios and inside, is available 11 am to 2 pm. Seating capacity is restricted and tables arranged for social distancing. The Visitors Center, Cantigny's gardens, grounds, rest rooms, playground, and tanks are accessible. Masks are required in all buildings, including rest rooms.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Among the local beautification projects undertaken in and around 1976 by members of the garden club were:

Plantings around the old Park District Building; around the Westlake treatment plant as requested by the Village; and the Library. Also weigelia bushes were donated to the Post office to plant in their gardens. The garden club obtained seedlings from the State of Illinois Conservation Department and donated them to every child in Bloomingdale Schools!!



FREE PERENNIALS

Club member, Carole Lockerbie, has three (3) kinds of Spring blooming perennials FREE for you to dig up. She has geraniums, lavender, Solomon Seal (regular and variegated) and Brunera with cobalt blue sprays. Please call Carole (see member roster) to make arrangements. Thank you. Remember your mask.



Dear Garden Club Members,

I'd like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support upon the death of my sister. It really meant a lot to know I was surrounded by prayer and positive thoughts. I am grateful for having found this club and for the wonderful friendships I have formed over the past few years.

Thank you!

Cheryl

The Travel Corner

In order to feed my passion about travel—and believe me, I'm missing my suitcase—I read a lot! For sure I've been spoiled. In the past I was able to not just fantasize about a destination but actually able to decide to get on a plane and go to that destination! That's not the story any more and my family would really worry about me if I felt I had to actually get on a plane right now! Best scenario for me and for anyone with a passion for the 'jetway' of life . . . is to read! My recommendations are for the following books . . . they have served me well these past few weeks!

'In A Sunburned Country' (Australia)
by Bill Bryson

'Under The Tuscan Sun' (Italy)
by Frances Mayes

'The Geography of Bliss' (World Destinations) by Eric Weiner

'Tales of a Female Nomad' (World Destinations) by Rita Golden Gleman

'The Last Castle' (New York/North Carolina-Biltmore Castle-Vanderbilt Family)
Denise Kieanan

'The Pale-Faced Lie' (American Indian Reservations in the U.S.—rather political)
by David Crow

All books were outstanding! I just order a few more on travel!

It is wonderful to have pictures . . . digital or not . . . to help fill the void!

Submitted by Marilyn Dattilo—Survivor!
Travel Techniques
Phone 630-671-0750



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 Svec
*Publicity	Jamie Schneck (Promotions, Trowel, and Website)
Publicity Committee	
Facebook.....	Cathy Gall
Website Support	Dan Vitacco
*Recording Secretary	Joan Skotleski
*Corresponding Secretary	Joyce Basel
Community Garden.....	Gail Sanders (Plot-To-Plate)
Good Cheer	Jennifer Moore
Hospitality.....	Laurie Jenkins & Susan Glick-Shore
Memorial Garden.....	Joyce Basel

**Denotes Executive Board*

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 Bloomington 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, Bloomington, IL 60108

Contact Us At:

bloomingtongardenclub@gmail.com

We're On The Web:

bloomingtongardenclub.org