

# The Trowel



June 2021  
Volume 9, Issue 2

## BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

### Greetings from our **President**



Joyce Basel

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*Gardening adds  
years to your  
life, and  
life to your  
years!*

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~Sandia Seed Company

Hello Dear Members and Friends,

It is sweltering outside and I am so hoping it will rain, but even with clouds around I think it will miss us once again. My poor garden is parched and there are still some plants from the plant sale in pots awaiting my attention!! I hope that all of you have fared better than I have in this respect.

Well, as you all know, we had another fantastic plant sale! It was really hard work, but it was also fun and it was truly successful. After all that has happened this past year, it was lovely to be able to participate in this event again. I know that Linda will give you details, but I do want to tell you how proud I am that so many of you turned up to help. Once again our Club members did us proud . . . turned up for many hours at a time and worked together to make our plant sale the very best one around. Thank you all!

Our Senior members had significant birthdays and last Wednesday several of us were joined by Esther Ahlrich and Jo Dabrowski at Rooster's Bar and Grill to celebrate. Esther turned 88 and Jo had her birthday in January (she is in her 90s) but of course, due to Covid, we really could not celebrate then. And then on Monday, our dear Vivian Krotz turned 99! Jennifer and I went to her

house and delivered a beautiful basket of bright yellow roses and we sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Vivian was dressed beautifully and had curled her hair for the occasion—honestly she looked wonderful! What a lady! We have two other members who turned 80 as well in January—Sandy Kappelar and Bobbie Pulido!

On a sad note, we lost our dear friend Kathy Mikutis and many of our members attended the Memorial that her many children held for her at her home in Roselle. It was a wonderful event and showcased her garden and the many achievements of this truly remarkable woman. Please read the beautiful comments about her in this issue. It really says something for her that her daughters came to the Plant Sale in her memory. We were all so glad to see them.

I am still hoping that we will be able to celebrate "Christmas in July" at Jameson's and that you all will join me for a get together we so deserve. It will be so much fun! It is truly time for us all to put Covid behind us and get back to a semblance of normal.

Have a happy summer of gardening!

My love to you all,

Joyce Basel

# Perennial Potting Party

Our timing was great for perennials which had just started coming up and were ready to split. About 14 attended (including Kathi Rose) and we potted approximately 500 perennials. Our sales for these alone were \$1,225. Thank you all for your contributions!



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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.





# Remembering Kathy Mikutis



Joyce Basel



Kathleen Mary Mikutis passed on to the glorious gardens beyond, Sunday, March 28, 2021. Our hearts and prayers are now with her family.

Cheryl Svec always enjoyed working with Kathy both at the Plot-to-Plate garden and Farmers Market events. Kathy was always full of ideas and no matter what, had the most positive attitude!

For the Farmers Market, she was always coming up with something crafty. She would make hand-painted garden signs and fairy gardens in old lanterns. She had fun ideas like using an old step-ladder or door screen to display items for sale.

Likewise, at the community garden, Kathy was always trying something new. She was our go-to person for planting and caring for the potato crops. She had her son, Ben, build ladders to help grow pole beans. Kathy had a wealth of knowledge about weather conditions and growing techniques. She was always reading and learning and shared her knowledge with us. Without fail, Cheryl learned something new from her every time she worked with her.

Gail Sanders remembers Kathy was a very dedicated member of the Plot-to-Plate Garden Committee. She not only had good ideas, but was always going above and beyond what was asked of her. If there was ever a problem, she was one with possible solutions. When the original Plot-to-Plate sign fell apart, Kathy crafted a new one. She was generous with her time and talents and always flexible. I was saddened when she told me that she was moving and would longer be part of the team.

As Cheryl mentioned, she was our go-to person for growing potatoes and sweet potatoes. We are trying to figure out how she was so successful—she was going to give us pointers this year. Instead, Cheryl and I found a few volunteer potatoes growing in the area where potatoes had been planted last year. The “Kathy potatoes” have been transplanted and hopefully will be a start to this years crop.

Kathy delivered our produce to a food pantry every other week and always added something from her own garden. It is most fitting that her family asked that donations be made to a food pantry in her memory.



2017 photo of Kathy M., Eileen S., Cheryl S., Pat K. (Master-Gardener), and Joyce B. working at the club's garden.



Carol, Cheryl, and Kathy at Bloomingdale's Farmers Market selling club donations at the BGC booth.

# 2021 Flower & Plant Sale—An Amazing Success!

Linda Kunesch

We were so delighted that Covid restrictions were substantially reduced so we could once again offer our traditionally awesome Flower & Plant Sale! Our sale was one of just a handful in the Chicagoland area this spring that offered more than just pre-sale orders.

We changed up our preparation a bit this year as none of us are getting any younger! We stretched our “tasks” across four days which seemed to help tremendously.



Unique Party Rental again provided us with 55 8-foot tables at a very reduced cost. Thanks, Joyce, for reaching out to Juan Garcia whose family owns the rental company. Our tables arrived on time. A big thanks to the club members who turned out, and especially to John & Chris Gall (Cathy's family); Dennis Bielecki, Jim Bielecki & Trisha Mackey (from Linda's family); Dan Roth (a Master Gardener at DuPage Care Center); Kathi Rose (who



also helped out at the sale); and fellas from the Park District for their help to set up the tables.

After flowers were delivered, we inventoried everything. Much to our dismay, 13.5% of our order did

not get delivered from Sunrise Greenhouse, our professional grower. Just like last year, Sunrise Greenhouse had such a robust retail business during the spring they had sold out of many, many plants before our order could be filled.

As a result, nearly ALL of our 92 pre-sale order customers were given the option of selecting something else of similar value or getting a refund when they arrived to pick-up their order and shop on Friday or Saturday. We did not have an early pick-up of pre-sale orders or a “Sneak Peek at Perennials” this year.

Sales on Friday and Saturday were amazing. In essence, we sold out by 1:00 on Saturday . . . we believe the first time for our club! The remaining teeny tiny veggies were given to the Bloomingdale Park District Community Gardeners the following week.





Despite all the uncertainties and challenges, we still made a profit of more than \$7,200! Now how cool is that!?! It was our 3rd largest profit to date. The sale of perennials was more than \$1,200. Thanks to all who contributed.



Please see Cheryl's Treasurer's Report for more details. Just an FYI: After adjusting for shortages, we donated \$300 in flowers to DuPage Care Center. The membership previously authorized \$800 to provide flowers for the Resident Gardeners, container gardens, and to support the new Pollinator Garden in 2021 as we did not donate any flowers in 2020 due to the pandemic. We will use some of that remaining donation to purchase additional pollinator plants for the Pollinator Garden and/or garden amenities.



Bloomington Park District again provided us with the best venue "this side of the Mississippi!"

We also donated \$50 in flowers to WINGS. And our Bloomington Park District actually ordered \$1,600 in plants at pre-sale order prices. Unfortunately, their order also was shorted.

A very special thanks goes to Joe Potts, Executive Director; Mesha Hadzik, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Tania Rodriguez, Parks Department Office Assistant; Sally Johnson, Parks employee; and all the men from the Parks Department that helped us throughout! You all are awesome!

Now for some sad news: Sunrise Greenhouse will not provide their plants for our future Flower & Plant Sales. Their retail business has gone through the roof (so to speak).



So they are no longer going to provide wholesale customers like us with their product. We are very sad about this but have already reached out to four potential vendors. We'll keep you posted.

Thank you to all who helped this year. More than half of our membership turned out to support our sale—this was just wonderful! We're already looking forward to and planning for 2022!



### **Your 2021 Flower & Plant Sale Committee**

Joyce Basel  
Cathy Gall  
Linda Kunesh  
Jennifer Moore  
Jamie Schneck  
Joan Skotleski  
Henia Sullivan  
Cheryl Svec  
Kelly Vitacco

# Plant Sale Financial Report

## Income

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Pre-orders (92 sales) . . . . .              | \$14,711.50        |
| Potting party Sales . . . . .                | 108.00             |
| Collected Days of Sale (256 sales) . . . . . | 7,898.50           |
| <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>                       | <b>\$22,718.00</b> |

## Expenses

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Sunrise Woldhuis Farms Invoice . . . . .   | \$13,261.33        |
| Table Rental – Unique Party Rental . . . . .                                     | 400.00             |
| Supplies (Tablecloths, clipboards,<br>paper/labels/ink, misc supplies) . . . . . | 386.98             |
| Refunds . . . . .  | 1,212.83           |
| U of I Extension Master Gardener Help Desk . . . . .                             | 100.00             |
| Tip for Delivery Man (Sunrise) . . . . .   | 40.00              |
| Credit Card Fees . . . . .   | 101.47             |
| <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>   | <b>\$15,502.61</b> |

**NET/PROFIT . . . . . \$7,215.39**

## Other Notes/Fun Facts

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Credit Card Sales (61 sales) . . . . .                                     | \$3,666.50        |
| Fees Incurred (117.50 fees collected/<br>\$16.03 profit on fees) . . . . . | 101.47            |
| <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>   | <b>\$3,565.03</b> |

**Perennial Sales . . . . . \$1,225.00**

## Gift Items/Other Sales

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Soil . . . . .            | \$152.00        |
| Books/Magazines . . . . . | 40.00           |
| Misc Items . . . . .      | 61.00           |
| <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>    | <b>\$253.00</b> |

## Plant Donations

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| DuPage Care Center . . . . . | \$400.00        |
| Plot-to-Plate . . . . .      | 4.80            |
| Cornerstone Church . . . . . | 48.00           |
| Wings . . . . .              | 50.52           |
| <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>       | <b>\$503.32</b> |

**NOTE TO MEMBERS . . .** Please bring back any 6" or larger empty pots so we can re-use them next year. NO cell packs, 4" pots, or hanging baskets are needed. Please put them behind the shed and the committee will periodically move them into the shed.





# Plot-to-Plate Garden Spring 2021

Gail Sanders

With the help of Susan Glick-Shore, Eileen Spaman, Cheryl Svee, and Gail Sanders, this year's edition of the Plot to Plate Garden has been planted. Last October garlic was planted and is doing very well. We did an early spring planting of peas, onions, carrots, kale, beets, lettuce, radishes, and spinach. In May we added transplants of tomatoes, green and hot peppers, tomatillos, Swiss chard, sweet potatoes, broccoli, oregano, parsley, lemon grass, and basil. We also planted seeds for green beans, cucumbers, zucchini, acorn squash, and butternut squash. There were several volunteer potato plants, and more seed potatoes were added to them.



Except for some rabbit damage, things are growing well. Now it is time for the garden club members to help us by weeding and watering. When it is your week in the garden, you will be sent an email with instructions. There was a fantastic response at the May meeting, but more help is still needed. **If you are willing to fill in any of the empty slots, please contact Gail Sanders at 630-690-9468 or email [sandersgvjp@com-cast.net](mailto:sandersgvjp@com-cast.net).** The spaces will be filled in as replies are received. Thank you for your help in advance. Remember that the produce harvested goes to local food pantries and our Plot-to-Plate Garden is our showcase to all who pass by. *Thank you for your help—we appreciate your participation!*

## *Please fill an opening to water and weed:*

|                |                      |   |                  |
|----------------|----------------------|---|------------------|
| Jun. 7–13      | Joan Skotleski       | & | Gail Sanders     |
| Jun. 14–20     | Barbara Weisenburger | & |                  |
| Jun. 21–27     | Susan Peelo          | & |                  |
| Jun. 28–Jul. 4 | Hector Rivera        | & |                  |
| Jul. 5–11      | Jennifer Moore       | & | Jennifer         |
| Jul. 12–18     | Henia Sullivan       | & | Linda Kuensh     |
| Jul. 19–25     | Mike McElroy         | & |                  |
| Jul. 26–Aug. 1 | Jamie Schneck        | & |                  |
| Aug. 2–8       | Jennifer Moore       | & | Jennifer         |
| Aug. 9–15      | Maureen Gibson       | & | Carole Lockerbie |
| Aug. 16–23     | Mike McElroy         | & |                  |
| Aug. 23–29     | Laurie Dring         | & | Marietta         |
| Aug. 30–Sept 5 | Joyce Basel          | & | Joe Boccuzzi     |
| Sept. 6–12     | Debbie Matuszak      | & | Peggy Laria      |
| Sept. 13–19    |                      | & |                  |
| Sept. 20–6     | Joyce Basel          | & | Joe Boccuzzi     |
| Sept. 7–Oct 3  |                      | & |                  |
| Oct. 4–10      |                      | & |                  |
| Oct. 11–17     |                      | & |                  |





## Carole Lockerbie's Backyard



## Cheryl Svec's Spring Blooms



## Laurie Dring's Growing Garden



Laurie started her veggie garden using seed pellets and an egg carton. Above are parsley from seed; canna lily (from a root provided by a member); basil micro greens; kale from seed and as infants.



# Bloomingtondale Garden Club's Plant America Grant for DuPage Care Center

Linda Kunesh

In early 2020, Bloomingtondale Garden Club received a \$1,000 grant from the Plant America Community Grant Project, National Garden Clubs. DuPage Care Center was the beneficiary of our efforts to replace the "Rainbow Garden" in DPCC's Resident Secret Garden with a more sustainable demonstration Pollinator and Healing Garden.

Through the efforts of Leslie Mabbott, ("Gardening with Leslie" & Master Gardener) the Care Center received a donation from Midwest Groundcovers of approximately 85 pollinator-friendly perennials and shrubs worth more than \$600 for this new garden. Garden Club members and Master Gardeners planted these in October, 2020, along with hundreds of spring bulbs purchased through this grant. Additionally, a 40" "Nature's Healing" Art pole, telescoping watering wands, 18 dwarf butterfly bushes, and a variety of annuals and additional perennials were purchased.

Included among the bulbs, perennials, annuals, and shrubs were tulips, hyacinths, goldenrod, butterfly weed, amsonia, phlox, Shasta daisies, penstemon, lavender, Calamintha, bee balm, coneflowers, black lace elderberry, climatis, Agastache, Black & Blue salvia, Verbena Bonariensis, alyssum, and petunias. Soon the area will be abuzz with activity!

Given continued restrictions due to the pandemic, few of the residents have been in the garden to date. However, their reaction to the beauty and transformation of this new garden area has been tremendous!

If conditions continue to improve and restrictions decrease regarding the state of the pandemic, DuPage Care Center hopes to invite Bloomingtondale Garden Club members to visit the Secret Garden later this summer to see in person the results of the Club's efforts.



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**Remember to pick-up your BGC business cards and door hangers.  
Complement your neighbors and friends on their great gardens!  
Write a note on the back inviting them to join us at our next meeting.**

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Linda Kunesh's Itoh Peonies.



Jamie Schneck's grandmother's peonies still blooming since 1960.

# Letters of Appreciation



Dear Bloomingdale Garden Club,

We are so very, very grateful for all that you have done for us at DuPage Care Center. Our annual planting day which was held on May 20th was the first time most of us had been outside in 15 months! What we saw as we entered our Secret Garden were beautiful container gardens that you donated, the incredible new Pollinator Garden, and the touching Healing Garden Art Pole.



We understand that the Plant America Grant you obtained for our benefit was the catalyst for this beautiful new garden.

As we made our way to our garden plots, we found more beautiful container gardens

and then all the beautiful flowers you donated for us to plant in our raised beds. Wow! Such an amazing sight. We also see we have a cutting garden that will be labeled "Food for the Soul" as staff and volunteers will help us make small bouquets for our rooms as the season continues. Bloomingdale Garden Club's donation of flowers and with the assistance of DuPage Master Gardeners has filled our hearts with joy.

We would like to thank you personally and hope you will be able to see the fruits of your efforts later this summer in our Secret Garden. Until then, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

DPCC Resident Gardeners



Dear Bloomingdale Garden Club,

I just wanted to let you know that we were successful in planting all of the flowers, veggies and herbs that we received from everyone. We were able to plant gardens at four of our housing locations, including our safe homes.

Families will have the opportunity to tend to the gardens, watch everything grow and use the items as they cook their meals.

As I gazed upon these small plants, I thought about "new beginnings" and how donors like you provide that to each family that we are able to help. Because of your care for them, they are all presented with an opportunity to "bloom."

Thank you so much for helping us out and caring about every little detail that can bring change to a person's life.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and have the opportunities to see yourself "bloom" right along with us.

Sincerely,

Tabitha, WINGS



# Notes of Gratitude



Dear Bloomingdale  
Garden Club,

You are making a difference  
in the lives of seniors, chil-  
dren, and families right here  
in our community. Thank

you for your generous donation of \$100.00 on  
5/1/21 in memory of Kathleen Mikutis.

Your gift is bringing hope to neighbors like Jean-  
nine. Along with her teenage children, Jeannine  
visited the Neighborhood Food Pantries' site at  
Family in Faith Church, in Glendale Heights,  
for the first time. She was polite and quiet, but  
the look of worry on her face was evident. That  
expression changed to visible relief as she and the  
kids were able to receive enough groceries to last  
them through the next two weeks. Fresh produce,  
dairy, cereal, pasta, canned goods, and even fro-  
zen meat meant the world to Jeannine that day,  
and changed the immediate future for her and  
her family. Your gift made that possible.

Thank you for sharing your kindness with  
Jeannine and others. Food insecurity has im-  
pacted even more households this past year, as  
evidenced by the increased number of families  
Neighborhood Food Pantries is serving. Feed-  
ing America estimates that there has been a 60%  
increase in individuals at risk of hunger in our  
area due to the pandemic. But because of our  
strong, caring community, all of our neighbors  
can get the nutritious food they need. Thank you  
for being a part of this crucial effort.

We invite you to learn even more about our seven  
food pantry locations, serving our community  
since 1999, by visiting our website [www.neighborhoodfp.org](http://www.neighborhoodfp.org) or by reaching out to me at any  
time at [kate@neighborhoodfp.org](mailto:kate@neighborhoodfp.org).

Gratefully,

Kate Montelone, Executive Director  
Neighborhood Food Pantries, Carol Stream



**CORNERSTONE FAITH  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**



Dear Bloomingdale Garden Club,

*I am writing to thank you for your kind generosity in  
your recent gift of \$250.00 on 4/7/21 to Cornerstone  
Faith Community Church.*

*Cornerstone Faith Community Church exists to  
encourage our community to know the Lord Jesus  
Christ, serve one another in His name, and grow  
together as the family of God in this place. The mission  
of CFCC doesn't focus only on the four walls we call  
our church home. The mission of this family of God  
extends into our community, as we seek new ways to  
meet the needs of our neighbors every day.*

*Again, thank you for supporting Cornerstone Faith  
Community Church with your gift.  
Your gift is truly appreciated.*

*Sincerely,*

*Pastor Jeremy Heitkam*



To our generous members who graciously  
donated snacks for our Plant Sale . . .  
**THANK YOU!**

This was so different this year and you gave  
more than was asked. Again my thanks!

Jennifer Moore



## Happy Birthday to our Super Seniors!

Monday, June 7th was Vivian's 99th birthday. Joyce and Jennifer brought her flowers and the cards collected from members.

We acknowledged Esther's 88th birthday and Jo's 90+ birthday at a luncheon at Roosters on Wednesday, June 2nd. Esther's two daughters attended

along with 15 garden club members and Esther and Jo. We all had a great time!



Anything can be repurposed into new plant containers, including some cute rainboots.

Imagesbybarbara / iStock / Getty Images Plus

## Recycled containers

Instead of buying new pots, look around the house for containers that can be repurposed into pots or baskets. Most any container will do, from old boots to bathtubs, so long as it can hold potting mix and allow water to drain out the bottom.

—An idea from Preen



James from NextDoor wants us to know about his rototill service. He can be reached at 331-201-6504 for more information. Submitted by Laurie Dring

## The Travel Corner

Travel is slowly returning to a 'new normal' and this article will be short, because I've been busy! It feels so good to hear clients say they want to get away for a few days! Just a reminder for Grandparents traveling with grandchildren—you should have, in your possession, a notarized letter identifying your relationship to the child you are presenting for any medical attention while on vacation with you. This letter should be signed by both parents and indicate a phone number where they can be reached. Even if the child traveling with you is over 18—best to be prepared with any requirement the hospital, emergency room, or physician might have, should medical help be required. We make plans . . . and God Smiles! Be prepared!

Have a safe and happy Summer!

Peace, Marilyn

Travel Techniques

630-671-0750 • IATA - 14-535894

traveltech@att.net







## 2021 Club Officers and Committees

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| *President .....               | Joyce Basel  |
| *1st Vice President.....       | Henia Sullivan/<br>(Membership) Cathy Gall                     |
| *2nd Vice President.....       | Laurie Dring<br>(Programs)                                     |
| Program Committee .....        | Joan Skotleski   |
| *3rd Vice President.....       | Linda Kunesh<br>(Ways and Means)                               |
| *Treasurer .....               | Cheryl Svec  |
| *Publicity .....               | Jamie Schneck<br>(Promotions, <i>The Trowel</i> , and Website) |
| Publicity Committee            |  |
| Facebook.....                  | Cathy Gall   |
| Website Support .....          | Dan Vitacco  |
| *Recording Secretary .....     | Joan Skotleski   |
| *Corresponding Secretary ..... | Joyce Basel  |
| Community Garden.....          | Gail Sanders<br>(Plot-To-Plate)                                |
| Good Cheer .....               | Jennifer Moore   |
| Hospitality.....               | Laurie Jenkins   |
| Hospitality Committee.....     | Susan Glick-Shore<br>Carol Lockerbie                           |
| Memorial Garden.....           | Joyce Basel  |
| Nursing Home Liaison.....      | Chris Magnatowski  |
| *Denotes Executive Board       |  |

Let Us Hear From You:  
[jschneck1233@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 Day, Time, and 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](mailto:bloomingtongardenclub@gmail.com)

## We're On The Web:

[bloomingtongardenclub.org](http://bloomingtongardenclub.org)