

The Trowel



September 2021
Volume 9, Issue 3

BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Greetings from our **President**



Joyce Basel

*Those who bring
sunshine to the
lives of others
cannot keep it
from themselves.*

SIR JAMES BARRIE

Dear Members and Friends,

As I sit here on this very, very hot Sunday afternoon with another of those so-called "pop-up" storms brewing, I keep wishing it would rain constantly for a day or two and really water the garden for me. While my pots look lovely with all the gorgeous coleus, caladium and Rex begonias that I water faithfully, my beds seem to dry overnight and the earth is cracked and ugly. I really need to get my act in gear in that regard! Hopefully you are all doing better than I am this year.

For those of you who attended the garden party at Fu Mei's house, I know that you all enjoyed not only her beautiful garden, but once again, the company of friends and the delicious spread that she provided. It was overall a totally wonderful event and I speak on behalf of the entire club when I say a huge "Thank you" to Fu Mei and Bob for sharing their home with us.

Our dear Esther Alhrich, who has been a member of the Club for at least thirty years, and has been my personal mentor for many of those years, has moved to a Memory Care

facility. Please see the very nice message we received from her daughters Kim and Lisa and remember to send Esther a card every now and then.

Our Good Cheer Person, Jennifer Moore, recently sent a letter out to all of you (by snail mail to ensure that you got it!!!) in which she urged you to participate more fully with the Club and our endeavors. We really need our new (and younger) members to step into Board position and give our club a "shot in the arm" with energy and fresh ideas. Positions that will need to be filled are shown on the last page of this Trowel!

Well, the pop-up shower provided a few drops of rain and has passed by! I still have work to do and I know that Jamie needs this in order to put the finishing touches to another wonderful publication, which I am sure you will all enjoy. Stay cool!

Love to you all,

Joyce



Blossom End Rot

Jamie Schneck



We are not all Master Gardeners. This was my first attempt at tomatoes in pots. Gail Sanders said, these have blossom end rot which is caused by a calcium deficiency. It usually

shows up when there has been an uneven watering pattern—plants get too dry between watering. This does not mean you should water daily but should check the soil daily. When in need of water, water the soil deeply. Tomatoes can be planted in garden soil. If you are planting in a container you should use potting soil. Good advice—thanks Gail!

Jurassic Park Plant?



And . . . people walk by my house and ask, "What is that?" It is actually a Castor Bean plant given to me from Linda Kunesh after I admired it in her garden. This thing is huge! It is also toxic, but beautiful.

Cucumber Dog House

Sandy Kappeler



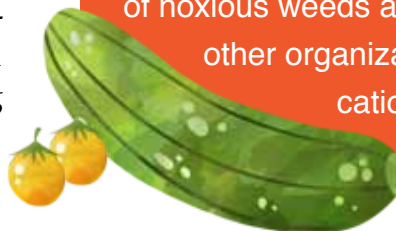
I purchased a large doghouse to put my ducks in and my cucumber plants have taken it over—they are growing up it's side! I use plastic to help me with gardening keeping the weeds out. I am also growing cherry tomatoes.



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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.



Seriously Green Soup

Helen Price

1 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely sliced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 leek, sliced
1.5 cups broccoli florets
2 cups Savoy cabbage, spring greens, kale or chard, finely shredded
1 small potato, peeled & diced
2 cups vegetable stock
Pepper
Heavy cream (optional)

Cook onion, garlic & leek in olive oil about 5 minutes. Add remaining vegetables & cook for a few minutes. Add the stock, bring to a boil & simmer about 30 minutes. Season with black pepper and puree in blender.

Serves 2

NOTE: The basic recipe is vegan. I replaced vegetable stock with chicken stock. I incorporated a roux (if needed) to thicken the soup and add heavy cream at the end because I love cream soups!

I have also substituted greens. I used the green tops of bok choy one week, and spinach the next. It's a good way to use up extra greens.

NUTRITION per serving (without the cream)
210 calories
8 grams protein
7 grams fat (1 gram saturated)
23 grams carbs (8 grams total sugars)
11 grams fiber



Spectacular Sunsets



Helen says Arizona is as hot as heck right now with temps climbing to triple digits. Here are some beautiful photos of sunsets taken from her driveway. She doesn't think they were wild-fire related. Their monsoon rains thankfully ended the wildfires.

Beautiful Birds

Amazing hummingbirds and yellow finches are hard to miss in Cathy Gall's bird-friendly garden.



Our 2020 Christmas Party in July!



Can you name all the members, new members, and friends who came out of Covid hyber-nation to celebrate Christmas in July? It was such a lovely evening of gathering with friends to enjoy drinks and a wonderful array of appetizers provided by Jameson's Charhouse in Bloomingdale. Everyone brought a white elephant gift from home, Hector treated



July Fun at Jameson's (cont'd)



everyone to yummy cake desserts—and of course, Joyce provided chocolates for everyone! It was an evening to get out and reconnect—the room was filled with joy and fun! Thanks to Joyce for heading this up and negotiating with Jameson's for this event. If you missed it—you won't want to miss our Christmas Party in December 2021! (*Photos were taken by Debbie Matuszak*)



Create a Butterfly Puddle Station

Henia Sullivan (*From Birds and Blooms Magazine*)

Help butterflies, especially during dry weather, with a backyard puddling spot.

- Find and fill a shallow dish or container with soil or sand. Add a few flat rocks to provide perching spots.
- Pour enough water in the container to moisten the soil, and sprinkle some salt on the surface. Also set out overripe fruit like bananas or oranges.
- Keep the soil moist during the heat of the day, when butterflies are more likely to visit.



Plot-to-Plate Bounty!

Gail Sanders

Mother Nature has sent the heat and rain and the members of the Bloomingdale Garden Club have added time and energy weeding and watering resulting in a successful start to our Plot-to-Plate Garden. Thank you to (in order of volunteering) Joan Skotleski, Barbara Weisenburger, Susan Peelo, Susan Glick-Shore (2x), Hector Rivera, Jennifer Moore (2x), Henia Sullivan, Linda Kunesh, Mike McElroy (2x), Jamie Schneck, Laurie Dring (2x), Maureen Gibson, Carole Lockerbie, Marietta Serenda, Joyce Basel (2x), Joe Boccuzzi (2x), Debbie Matuszak, Peggy Laraia, Tom Meyer, Art & Marilyn Dattilo, Cheryl Svee, and Gail Sanders for offering to take a week to weed and water. If you want to help, we need people for the weeks of September 27 to October 3 and October 4 to 10. Contact Gail at sandersgvjp@comcast.net or 630-690-9468.

As of August 13th we have been able to contribute over 275 pounds of organically grown produce from our garden donated to either the Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry or Family in Faith Food Pantry. The results of your efforts can be seen in the beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers, garlic, greens (kale, lettuce, spinach, Swiss Chard), herbs (basil, dill, oregano, parsley, oregano), onions, peas, green and hot peppers, radishes, tomatillos, tomatoes, and zucchini we have delivered. All of this has been harvested and delivered by the Plot-to-Plate Committee composed of Susan Glick-Shore, Eileen Spaman,



Delivered on August 14th—this is just one of our harvests.

Cheryl Svee, and Gail Sanders with help from Laurie Dring.

Since rain totals have varied so much, a rain gauge has been added to the garden to help us know how much rain the garden has received. We hope the weather holds out so, with your help, we can continue this effort.

The Garden Clubs of Illinois has asked that clubs keep track of produce delivered to food pantries. If you contribute any fresh fruits (grown or purchased) to a food, pantry, please let me know so I can add your poundage to what we harvest from the Plot-to-Plate Garden. So far Laurie Dring, Akhila Meda, Cheryl Svee and Gail Sanders have added a total of 73 pounds from their gardens.



Harvest photos from the community garden taken by Cheryl Svee.

Food Pantries in Need

There is 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.



Laurie Dring is proud of her cucumbers growing in her raised garden at the community gardens.

Food Pantry	Address	Phone #	Hours of operation
Bloomington Township Food Pantry	123 Rosedale Rd Bloomington	630 529-9993	Mon - Fri 8:30 - 4:30 Please call before coming.
Muslim Society Inc	1785 Bloomington 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, Thurs 12 - 3
Family in Faith Church Glendale Hts	1480 Bloomington 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 Fremont	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

Joyce Basel



A few of my beautiful coleus, caladium and rex begonias in my pots.

Gail Sanders



These coleus are grown from cuttings I over wintered, black-eyed Susans, lime light Hydrangea and a "disappearing" lily also know as a resurrection lily or surprise lily or Naked Lady. I can share any of these (except the hydrangea). I have taken a few cuttings and will see how they do.



Cheryl Svec



Pictures of my garden and a zinnia blossom I was able to capture in my garden today—half & half!

Henia Sullivan



Henia's lovely garden and beautiful pots.



Jennifer Moore & Marilyn Dattilo



Jennifer's caladiums and coleus.

The tiniest poinsettia I ever purchased 3 years ago at Platt!



Fu Mei's & Bob's Garden Party

You may wonder why there are no photos of members and friends who attended this most spectacular and lovely event. This garden is seriously enormous, overwhelmingly beautiful, and breathtaking! Fu Mei and Bob generously provided a homemade and catered dinner for us—and we came with the wine! So many photos we cannot even include here . . . you just had to be there—this was amazing!



Where to Wander Sunflower Fields and Fests in the Burbs

Wiltse's Farm Produce

50W379 Route 38, Maple Park, IL (Kane County)

(815) 739-6179

www.wiltsefarm.com

www.facebook.com/wiltsefarm



Kuipers Family Farm

1N145 Watson Road, Maple Park, IL (Kane County)

(815) 827-5200, www.kuipersfamilyfarm.com/sunflowers

www.facebook.com/kuipersfamilyfarm

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"I'm going to order a broiled skinless chicken breast, but I want you to bring me lasagna and garlic bread by mistake."

The Travel Corner

For sure I've been busy! There is a definite upswing in bookings. Most clients want to vacation within the United States and Hawaii has become the most desired place to go. Of the islands of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui are the most desired. Hawaii, however, has special requirements to vacation on their islands. This includes a negative covid test within 72 hours of arrival. You must now understand each state's requirements to enter it before you leave home. This can be easily checked online by searching for each state you want to visit. It's not possible for everyone to be vaccinated, but you can stay pro-active and follow healthy guidelines to keep your traveling experiences problem free. The world has changed and we have to stay flexible to enjoy it!

Peace for the Journey—

Marilyn

Travel Techniques

Phone 630-671-0750



A Letter from Esther's Family

Our Mom, Esther Ahlrich, recently moved to Clarendale of Algonquin. She has adjusted well and would probably love to receive cards. Due to the virus, visitors are not encouraged at this time, however, we'll let you know when our Mom can receive visitors.

Cards may be sent to:

Esther Ahlrich
Clarendale of Algonquin
Magnolia Wing, Room 1053
2100 W. Algonquin Road
Algonquin, IL 60102

Take care and thank you,
Kim and Lisa

Esther is in the center holding her granddaughter with her daughters, Lisa and Kim, at our 2018 Flower & Plant Sale.

***Keep the cards coming!
Esther has done so much
for this Club.***

Jennifer Moore
Good Cheer Chair



2021 Club Officers and Committees

*President Joyce Basel

***1st Vice President Henia Sullivan/
(Membership) Cathy Gall**

*2nd Vice President Laurie Dring
(Programs)

***3rd Vice President Linda Kunesh
(Ways and Means)**

*Treasurer Cheryl Svec

***Publicity Jamie Schneck
(Website, Flyers, The Trowel)
Publicity Committee
Promotions.....**

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 Susan Glick-Shore
Hospitality Committee.... Carol Lockerbie

Memorial Garden Joyce Basel

Nursing Home Liaison..... Chris Magnatowski

**Denotes Executive Board*

Highlight denotes offices up for election in January.

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 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

We're On The Web

bloomingtongardenclub.org

