

The Trowel



March 2022
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BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Greetings from our President



Dear Members and Friends,

Just when I thought that the warm weather was here to stay and spring had sprung—it snowed again!! And today (although bright and sunny) is once again horribly cold! Well, that is the end of March and this is Chicago, so to be expected I guess.

Your Board met recently and we all enjoyed an energetic and interesting meeting. I had the nice opportunity to welcome Marietta Serenda to the position of Membership Chair (First VP) and both Henia and Cathy Gall attended to hand over to her. I want again to express my gratitude to both of them for the many years that they held the position and for their dedication and work on our behalf. Also new to the Board and a hearty welcome to Linda Steck who is now our Recording Secretary! Thank goodness!! As you all know this position has been vacant since Joan left for a new life in Kentucky. Carole Lockerbie could not attend, but welcome also to her in the position of Hospitality.

Our next meeting is all about the Plant Sale in May and some of you may feel that since you have attend-

ed before and participated, you may skip this one. Please attend—there are new vendors and a lot more to do. Your Plant Sale committee works tirelessly to make this event successful and we need each and every one of you to be there—to give us your time, your energy and your enthusiasm. See more from Linda later in this edition.

As some of you may know, I had foot surgery and have been hobbling around—my doctor is not pleased that I don't seem to be able to obey his instructions to just sit and do nothing for a while!! Not me, and not possible, as I have still been running around taking care of our dear Bobbie who is (at last) starting to show signs of being on the mend.

I do hope that all of you are well and that you are seeing daffodils pop up in your yards. Like me, I know that you are looking forward to beautiful spring days and working in your gardens to beautify our neighborhood and cheer all who pass by.

Till I see you in April,
stay safe and healthy,
Joyce

*This is our 2022
Annual Flower
& Plant Sale
Issue—See inside
for everything you
need to know!*



Sustained Excellence Award Winner!

Submitted by University of Illinois



Linda Kunesh is the dynamic team leader for the award-winning therapeutic horticulture program at the DuPage Care Center in Wheaton. The project serves 65 residents through a garden club that includes a raised bed space for each participant and reg-

ularly-scheduled guided lessons to plan, plant, and care for their plants. She oversees 20 Master Gardener volunteers weekly and more than 60 volunteers annually, who combined logged 18,000-plus hours over 12 years.

"She personally logs more than 300 hours per year," said Davis, who added that Kunesh originally won



a State Master Gardener Award in 2013. "Linda's passion for the project shines through in all her efforts, including obtaining grants and donations to install new features, such as a pavilion for outdoor lessons, a paved patio, and pollinator garden."

Through the garden club, care center residents not only gain a sense of independence, but also a sense of community. Additionally, the fresh air and activity helps boost their physical, mental, and emotional health. Volunteers also harvest hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to donate to the People's Resource Center food pantry.



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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.

2022 Flower & Plant Sale May 13 & 14



We are so excited to tell you that we will have TWO professional vendors for our Spring Flower & Plant Sale: Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse, Grant Park, IL, and Clesen Wholesale, Evanston, IL.

As you may recall, because of its booming retail business in 2020 & 2021, Sunrise Greenhouse

sold out of many plants before it could fill our order. At the time of delivery in 2021, we were short 13% of our order. As a result, we researched additional plant vendors and selected Clesen Wholesale based on recommendations and what they could provide us.

Sunrise is primarily a retail business, even though we received “wholesale pricing.” As such, it is definitely to their advantage to sell as much as it can to its incredible customer base. Sunrise cannot “hold” our plants in abeyance, especially since our past years’ sales were after Mother’s Day, which also is the case in 2022.

Clesen, on the other hand, is a wholesale plant business. Once we submit our orders, those orders are HELD for us and cannot be sold to others who may request those plants.

An additional difference is important to note: Sunrise has many more “types” of plants than does Clesen. For example, flats, hanging baskets, grasses, tropicals, etc. are available at Sunrise. Clesen primarily sells their plants in cases of 10 - 4 ½” pots and cases of 6 - 6” pots.

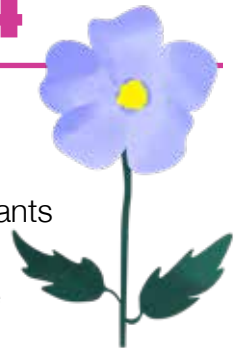
Also of significant importance is that Sunrise is now requiring that we go there to “pull” our own order which adds a full extra day to the week of the Sale! Sunrise will still deliver. More on that below...Clesen, on the other hand sets aside our plants, pulls them, and delivers them.



Features of Our 2022 Annual Sale Include:

- Professionally grown flowers & plants from Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse and Clesen Wholesale (Greenhouse)
- Many “tried and true” plants, along with some we’ve never offered before.
- Forty (40) different colors, varieties, and/or cultivars of flats of 48 flowers, includes the Beacon series of Impatiens that are Downy Mildew Resistant. (Note: Flats must be ordered as a whole or half flat of the same variety & color. NO mixing of cell packs may be used in pre-sale ordering. Mixing of cell packs is allowed during Days of Sale).
- More than 25 colors/varieties of premium 11” hanging baskets
- Accessory/accent plants
- More than 60 different colors, varieties, and/or cultivars of 4.5” specialty annuals from Ball Horticulture & Proven Winners for sun and shade. PLUS we are offering 6 colors/varieties of Wave Petunias in 6-packs and 4 colors of geraniums in 6-packs! (Note: no single cells available this year.)
- Cannas, grasses, & other tropicals (such as, Rex Begonias & Kong Coleus, Citronella, Caladiums, Elephant Ears, & Tuts)
- Veggies & Herbs: Given that last year’s veggies and herbs were so small, we are not listing them on the pre-sale order form. HOWEVER, when we go to Sunrise on May 9, we will pick out those that look appropriate to be sold at our Sale.
- Master Gardener Help Desk (Friday, May 13th and Saturday, May 14th)
- Raffles of one large sun pot and one large shade pot
- Sale of gently used gardening books, gardening magazines, & garden tools

If you have questions, please contact: Linda Kunesh, 630-306-7854 or Henrietta (Henia) Sullivan, 847-902-3461.



2022 Schedule of Events



TUESDAY, APRIL 19th • 6:30 PM

Plant Sale Prep Meeting at Cornerstone Church

We will provide a brief overview of this year's Sale. Most importantly, Sign-up Sheets for when you can commit to help will be distributed. We ask that each club member sign up for at LEAST two 3 to 4 hour time slots, along with signing up for bringing food, giving additional assistance, etc.

MONDAY, MAY 9 • Leaving at 6:30 AM

A group of us will be going to Sunrise to pull our order for the Sale. At this time we have enough volunteers.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11 • 7:30 AM to 5 PM

Maintenance Building Prep and Set-up

Table delivery at 8 AM

Tables, tablecloths, and signage will be set up.

11:30 AM • Delivery from Sunrise and Inventory

We need a LOT of help unloading the flowers; completing the inventory; staging the flats, cases, and baskets of flowers & plants. Bring your family members, friends, and neighbors to help.

THURSDAY, MAY 12th • 7 AM to 6 PM

6:30 AM Request Club Members Arrive

7 AM • Clesen Delivery should arrive. We will set out the cases of plants and inventory

9:00 AM to (about) 5 PM • Pull Pre-Sale Orders

We need a LOT of help pulling, checking and setting aside pre-sale orders.

NOTE: There will be NO early shopping for any plants.

FRIDAY, MAY 13th • 8 AM to 11:00 AM

Pick Up of Pre-Sale Orders

(Only Open to Pre-Sale Customers)

If you placed a pre-sale order you ALSO may shop early for additional plants. Note that we "may" have additional plants that were not available on the pre-sale order form, such as specialty hanging baskets.

Payment: Cash, check, or credit cards accepted. (Note there is a \$2 service fee for credit card use.)

Friday, May 13th • Noon to 6 PM **Sale Opens to the Public**

SATURDAY, MAY 14th • 9 AM to 5 PM

FLOWER & PLANT SALE Open to the Public **(Clean-up 5 to 6:30 PM)**

Help is needed for set-up, sales, and clean up. Contact Linda at 630-221-8684 (home), 630-306-7854 (cell) or kunesh310@comcast.net to let her know WHEN you will commit to help. We ask that each club member volunteer for two 3 to 4 hour blocks of time.

PAYMENT: Cash, check, or credit cards accepted. There is a \$2 service fee for credit card use.

Raffles—Two large pots (one for sun; the other for shade) will be available for the raffles.

For Sale—Gently-used gardening-related books, magazines, tools, etc.

Master Gardener Help Desk will be available throughout the Sale.

Gift Certificates in any denomination are available for purchase. Recipients of the gift certificates may redeem them at our sale. These make great Mother's Day (May 8th), Easter (April 17th), and birthday gifts and are suitable to mark any occasion/event. Day-of-Sale prices apply. To order gift certificates, send a note with legible name/address and a check made payable to: Bloomingdale Garden Club, c/o Henrietta Sullivan, 1015 Tiverton Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193

It takes our ENTIRE garden club to make this sale a success! Thanks for YOUR Efforts!!!

Bloomingtondale Garden Club 2022 Budget



Cheryl Svec, Treasurer

Because of COVID we did not do our typical donations in 2021 (our 2020 plant sale was pre-order only). In 2021 Bloomingtondale Garden Club gave \$250 to Cornerstone Faith Community Church and \$100 to Neighborhood Food Pantries in memory of Kathy Mikutis.

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets—Provides housing, supportive services and community outreach to help homeless and at-risk veterans and their families achieve self-sufficiency. <http://www.helpaveteran.org/>
\$ 1,500.00

Cornerstone Faith Community Church—A non-denominational Christian Church in Bloomingtondale. (Provides meeting space and other assistance to the BGC.) <https://cornerstonefaith.church/>
\$ 1,500.00

Bloomingtondale VFW Post 7539—A service organization which provides inactive and active veteran assistance, senior assistance, flag disposal and honor guard. <http://www.vfw7539.org/>
\$1,000.00

DuPage Pads—Mission is to end homelessness in DuPage County. Provides interim and permanent housing, coupled with support services to help individuals work to become self-sufficient. <https://dupagepads.org/>
\$ 500.00

Garden Works Project—Promotes organic suburban agriculture to improve the well-being of our community, the environment, and those facing food insecurity. <http://www.gardenworksproject.org/> **\$1000.00**

Humanitarian Service Project—Assists impoverished families living in DuPage County by providing nutritious food to seniors, birthday presents and school supplies for children and Christmas meals and gifts to needy families. <http://hsp.agency/> **\$ 500.00**

DuPage Care Center (DPCC) (Plants)—DPCC provides quality long term care as well as short term rehabilitative services to DuPage County residents in a professional and cost effective manner. <https://www.dupageco.org/convo> **\$ 400.00**
This is an unused obligation (due to COVID) from 2020.

We Grow Dreams—A not-for-profit greenhouse and garden center providing job training and employment opportunities to people with disabilities. <https://www.wegrowdreams.org/> **\$ 500.00**

Total \$6,900.00

Plot-to-Plate



Gail Sanders, Community Garden

It's a sunny day and much of the snow in my front yard has melted. The crocus should be coming up soon. Onions sets have been ordered and are expected to arrive in April. Seeds have been purchased to do our early season planting. Seeds for beets, carrots, lettuce, peas, radishes, and spinach are waiting for their chance to go in the ground. I may do some winter sowing with the lettuce and spinach. Garlic was planted last fall and is waiting for warmer weather to start growing again along with the oregano and thyme.

The Plot-to-Plate committee has met to evaluate last year's garden and do the

layout for this year. We will plan on doing some cool season planting in April with the rest of the garden going in during May. At the May meeting we will be asking you to sign up to help us with weeding and watering. The increasing hours of sunlight remind us that Spring is not far away!



37 Ways to Know You're Addicted to Gardening

Author Unknown

1. Your neighbors recognize you in your pajamas, rubber clogs, and a cup of coffee.
2. You grab other people's banana peels, coffee grinds, apple cores, etc. for your compost pile.
3. You have to wash your hair to get your fingernails clean.
4. All your neighbors come and ask you questions.
5. You know the temperature of your compost every day.
6. You buy a bigger truck so that you can haul more mulch.
7. You enjoy crushing Japanese beetles because you like the sound that it makes.
8. Your boss makes "taking care of the office plants" an official part of your job description.
9. Everything you touch turns to "fertilizer."
10. Your non-gardening spouse becomes conversant in botanical names.
11. You find yourself feeling leaves, flowers and trunks of trees wherever you go, even at funerals.
12. You dumpster-dive for discarded bulbs after commercial landscapers remove them to plant annuals.
13. You plan vacation trips around the locations of botanical gardens, arboreta, historic gardens, etc.
14. You sneak home a 7 foot Japanese Maple and wonder if your spouse will notice.
15. When considering your budget, plants are more important than groceries.
16. You always carry a shovel, bottled water and a plastic bag in your trunk as emergency tools.
17. You appreciate your Master Gardener badge more than your jewelry.
18. You talk "dirt" at baseball practice.
19. You spend more time chopping your kitchen greens for the compost pile than for cooking.
20. You like the smell of horse manure better than Estée Lauder.
21. You rejoice in rain... even after 10 straight days of it.
22. You have pride in how bad your hands look.
23. You have a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.



24. You can give away plants easily, but compost is another thing.
 25. Soil test results actually mean something.
 26. You understand what IPM means and are happy about it.
 27. You'd rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothes store.
 28. You know that Sevin is not a number.
 29. You take every single person who enters your house on a "garden tour."
 30. You look at your child's sandbox and see a raised bed.
 31. You ask for tools for Christmas, Mother's/Father's day, your Birthday, and any other occasion you can think of.
 32. You can't bear to thin seedlings and throw them away.
 33. You scold total strangers who don't take care of their potted plants.
 34. You know how many bags of fertilizer/potting soil/mulch your car will hold.
 35. You drive around the neighborhood hoping to score extra bags of leaves for your compost pile.
 36. Your preferred reading matter is seed catalogs.
- And last but not least:
37. You know that the four seasons are:
 - Planning the Garden
 - Preparing the Garden
 - Gardening
 - Preparing & Planning for the next Garden



Kitchen Composting



Mike McElroy

My wife Jill and I recently purchased a food recycler that takes any food leftovers or scraps and processes it into the most useful garden compost soil in just a few hours. We are really into green organic gardening and trying to eliminate waste in the environment and couldn't be happier with the results we've been getting.



To all you environmentally conscious gardeners out there, I'd like to give a big thumbs up to a wonderful Christmas present my wife Jill and I jointly gave each other last Christmas. It's a

Vitamix® FC-50 1/2 gallon FoodCycler® (I know it may not sound too romantic, but we are either mature conscientious adults or people in desperate need of marriage counseling).



If you feel guilty throwing out those uneaten pizza leftovers or hate smelling up your garbage cans with old potato peels, watermelon rinds, chicken bones, cauliflower stems, or

even coffee grounds this is the answer for you. Just toss those items mentioned into the handy bucket included and insert it into the cycler and in 4-8 hours you'll have some prime grade nutrient rich compost that will NOT be releasing toxic methane into the atmosphere and will actually help your vegetables, fruits and flowers bloom wonderfully at virtually no additional cost. We are really happy with our results as we have already accumulated almost 5 gallons of compost after only a couple months from food we would have normally thrown out.

We are committed composters that have a large outside compost drum, but it takes literally months to convert organic material to compost naturally. With the Vitamix Cyclor we just toss our organic garbage into it, push the start button and come back 7 hours later and pick up the compost. Here are a few personal observations you may find helpful while deciding to purchase:

- The Vitamix will reduce the volume of contents by about 90%. So if you start with 1/2 gallon of banana peels, you'll end up with approximately a handful of composting soil when the cycle is completed.
- We paid about \$400 for our Christmas season Vitamix Cyclor and it is a relatively high end product.
- There are lower cost products available though you'll have to read reviews to determine if it's worth it for you.
- The product is about the size of 2 breadboxes on top of one another. It's not a huge item but it probably will be too big to fit on your average countertop. We keep ours under the kitchen sink which is convenient but means you may have to find a new place to store your kitchen cleaning supplies (which I used to keep under sink).
- Once you start a composting cycle, you cannot stop and resume. You have to restart from the beginning. So unless you mind letting it run while you are not home, you may be "confined to quarters" for a while.
- It's VERY quiet, you won't even know it's on.
- Although we try to do our best to limit any global impact, we realize the electricity used by the Vitamix may negatively impact the environment. I haven't yet calculated the net impact but our plans are to convert to solar power as soon as we can which should offset some of the negative environmental impact.

Anyway, hope our little recommendation will influence you to become aware of this product and its benefits. We are very happy with it and hope you find this article useful. We can't wait to see how our plants respond to our new composting process.

REPEAT BOUTIQUE CENTER

Submitted by Linda Kunesch

One of the groups brought to 100+ Women Who Care DuPage Chapter is Repeat Boutique. I was intrigued by the presentation, looked at their website, and stopped over there today. They are located at 191 S. Gary, Suite 140, Carol Stream, 630.462.7341. It is on the east side of Gary, south of North Ave. www.Repeatboutiquecenter.com



It is a Christian ministry completely run by volunteers that collects usable clothing; household items (plates, cups, glasses, placemats, small appliances, etc.); linens including towels, blankets, sheets, & pillows; shoes; purses; toys, etc. They also will take "seasonal"



things but since they do not have a lot of storage, they ask that you not drop off stuff more than 3 months before the season or holiday. Right now they are beginning to gear up for summer.

They just ask that ALL clothing & items donated be clean and usable. All of these things are then GIVEN at no charge to people in need and who have been referred by various DuPage churches, social service agencies, etc. People are often immigrants and refugees who have come to our country with nothing. The "clients" may shop once every 3 months. Everything is displayed extremely nicely with signage, sizes, etc. It has been a tremendous resource for pastors and missionaries, too!

They gladly take monetary donations, as well, as all financial needs are "met through monies received from churches, individuals, and grants." I would think rent & utilities would be financial needs for this volunteer ministry. We might want to consider them next year as part of our garden club's charitable giving.



Donations may be dropped off M-F, 9:30-1:30 behind the building at Door E-3. Someone will come out to help you unload.

Growin' Green Garden Market

Submitted by Laurie Dring

SCARCE is holding their annual Growin' Green Garden Market in April and would like to invite the Bloomingdale Garden Club to come check it out. At this wonderful community event you will find all sorts of goods such as organic seedlings, compost, native plants, rain barrels, live music, workshops and more! Please help us spread the word to anyone else you may think is interested.



The event is scheduled for April 30th, 2022 from 9am-1pm. Let us know if you have any questions! Learn more about the market, including vendor registration at: <https://www.scarce.org/growin-green/>

York High School EcoClub/Trex Recycling Challenge Now thru April 22

Submitted by Linda Kunesch



Save your plastic bags! The Trex Recycling Challenge is a competition between schools across the country to recycle the most plastic over a six-month period. The recycled plastic is transformed into outdoor decking for Trex, the world's largest manufacturer of decking and outdoor railing. As of December totals, York is currently ranked 6th in the country out of all high schools, and 24th out of all schools participating. EcoClub has a goal of 3,000 recycled pounds of plastic by Earth Day (April 22nd). Donations can be dropped at the main entrance at York. After the challenge is over, plastic (items listed in the graphic) is still recyclable at many local grocery stores. For more information on the Trex Challenge please visit Recycle2Win.com or email EcoClub sponsor Bob Blaus, bblaus@elm-hurst205.org.




Jumping Worms?

Submitted by Linda Kunesch


Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

How do you stop the spread? There are currently no viable jumping earthworm control methods, although research is continuing and we can prevent their spread:

- Do not buy or use jumping worms for bait, vermicomposting, or gardening. 
- When purchasing bulk mulch or compost, use a reputable producer that has heat-treated the material to a temperature of 130°F for at least three days to destroy the cocoons or purchase bagged mulch.
- Check your property for jumping earthworms using a mustard pour (it won't harm your plants!). Mix a gallon of water with 1/3 cup of ground yellow mustard seed and pour slowly into the soil. This will drive any worms to the surface where you can easily remove them.
- Cocoons are sensitive to heat and can be destroyed with clear plastic solarization; in late spring or summer, cover moistened soil with a sheet of transparent polyethylene for two/three weeks or until the soil temperature exceeds 104°F for at least three days.
- Be careful when sharing and moving plants; always check for worms and know where your plantings come from; buy bare root stock when possible.
- If you have a small population of jumping worms, handpick and destroy them by bagging them and throwing them in the trash, or place them in a bag and leave out in the sun for at least 10 minutes; then throw the bag away.
- Research is currently being conducted on invasive worms at the University of Wisconsin and several practices do show some promise of control. Abrasive materials such as bio char (ground up charcoal) and diatomaceous earth (fossilized diatoms) may show some promise in killing adult jumping worms. Incorporate one of these products into the infested soil to a depth where the



worms are located; worms that come in contact with the materials will be adversely affected.

- If you have jumping worms, report it (www.nyimainvasives.org) and avoid moving plants or soil from your yard. 

Jumping worms are prohibited by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Prohibited invasive species cannot be knowingly possessed with the intent to sell, import, purchase, transport or introduce.

Invasive Asian Jumping Earthworms

Sandy Vanno, Master Gardener Warren County CCE

One telltale sign of an infestation is a very uniform, granular soil created from worm castings. The texture of this soil is often compared to coffee grounds. When you scratch the top layer of soil you will see the worms thrashing about with an erratic, snakelike movement. These worms, which can reach 6 inches in length, are much more active than European night crawlers. The Asian jumping worm can be found on the soil surface and in the leaf litter, making them easy to find. They can live anywhere from urban parks and suburban backyards to rural forests. You are also very likely to find them in compost piles and along roads.

The Asian jumping worm has a prominent band around the body of the worm, called the clitellum, where cocoons are produced. The band completely encircles the body, is milky white to light gray, and is flush with the body; the body looks metallic. On European night crawlers, the clitellum is raised or saddle-shaped and reddish-brown in color and does not wrap entirely around the body.



Gail Sanders, University of Illinois Master Gardener, presented our March program, Vegetable Gardening in Raised Beds and Containers. (Photo by Debbie Matuszak)

2022 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

February 15—Paul Stoffels, Seed Starting

March 15—Gail Sanders, Vegetable Gardening in Raised Beds and Containers

April 19—Flower & Plant Sale Prep Meeting

May 9—Trip to Pull Order at Sunrise

May 11—Plant Sale Prep

Delivery from Sunrise • Inventory

May 12—Delivery from Clesen

Inventory • Pull Pre-sale Orders

May 13—Pre-sale Pick-up 8 to 11 AM

PLANT SALE OPENS to Public **Noon to 6 PM**

May 14—PLANT SALE

May 17—Paul Stoffels, Composting

June 21—Ken Benson, Improving Your Soil the Natural Way

July 19—Gail & Linda's Cantigny Tailgait & Tour

August 16—Veronica Porter, Cook-Eat-Grow

September 20—Members Share Garden Tips

October 18—Joyce Basel, Flower Arranging

November 15—Craft for West Suburban Nursing

December 13—2022 Christmas Party



MAKE RECYCLED SEED PAPER

Submitted by Cindy Glen

By Debbie and Mark Wolfe

Turn your junk mail into beautiful, handmade, plantable, seed paper. **Plant when done!**



For instructions see <https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/make-recycled-seed-paper-pictures>

The Travel Corner

Traveling is pure joy in January! The frantic busyness of the Holidays is done, and now it's time to relax!

You would be surprised how many 'deals' are out there in January—traveling from the cold Midwest to warmer climates. By traveling in January—whether a week or two weeks, you definitely make the cold Midwest Winter seem shorter. The Bloomingdale Plant Sale will spark your interest upon your return from vacation to start thinking about the garden and the soft, moist soil . . . rich and fertile that produces no weeds!

Travel agencies are looking for talent . . . those with valued experience! If you've considered a job in travel, now is the time to go for it. From airline carriers, in any capacity, to tour operators, the 'help wanted' signs are out . . . expand your horizons!

Marilyn Dattilo

Travel Techniques

IATA 14-535894 • 630-671-0750

traveltech@att.net

Thank You Letters

Submitted by Cheryl Svec

Cornerstone Faith Community Church

I am writing to thank you for your kind generosity in your recent gift 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.

Pastor Jeremy Heitkam

Gift Received: \$1,500.00

Date Received: February 8, 2022



Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

Thank you for your donation of \$1,500 on 2/9/2022 to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. We are a non-profit organization founded by veterans, providing our nations' heroes with housing and the necessary services to help them rebuild their lives. Your donation ensures we can continue to not only maintain our quality programs and services, but also expand the scope of how we serve veterans.

As veterans battle to find housing or avoid losing their homes, searching for jobs, and navigating mental health and substance abuse issues, it is more critical than ever to have services to combat these struggles. With your support, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans can welcome over 400 veterans into our Veterans Center and homes and offer them a roof over their head, an income to support themselves, and a network of compassionate support and resources. Your donation is the difference between hopelessness and a home.

We look forward to sharing our veteran-centric dreams with you over the next year as we con-

tinue to provide programs and services for our veterans, and how your donation makes these dreams possible. We are most grateful for your support. With your donation, you are ensuring that no veteran is left behind.

With sincere gratitude,
Executive Director, Christine Lewis



We Grow Dreams Greenhouse & Garden Center

Thank you so much for your donation to support We Grow Dreams Greenhouse & Garden Center. While we all attempt to navigate these difficult times, it is so wonderful to be able to depend on our wonderful supporters like you. Your donation will help us to continue the very fulfilling work to support our mission to provide a dynamic job-training program for our Team Member program.

As always, every little bit helps when it comes to donations to the greenhouse, whether in forms of cash support, donations of items to be used in our fundraisers, or to resell at the greenhouse, or just general items such as supplies we would normally have to purchase. Through your support we are able to see We Grow Dreams grow and prosper in our community for our Team members with disabilities.

We are beginning the process of giving our greenhouse a much-needed facelift given the age of our facilities. We thank everyone so much for helping us to spread the word far and wide about our mission to provide employment for adults with disabilities and our gorgeous healthy selection of annual flowers, veggies, fall flowers, and other holiday and gift items. Stop by to see us anytime to see what is new.

Again thank you for taking the time to remember us—we truly appreciate it.

Executive Director, Gregg Bettcher

Donation Received: \$500.00

Date Received: February 4, 2022



Member Update

Tim Moore (Jennifer's husband)



At our recent Board Meeting, our dear "Good Cheer" person, Jennifer Moore, advised us that her husband, Tim, has been diagnosed with cancer. Tim has been a wonderful supporter of the Club for many years and many of you know him.

Please keep both of them in your prayers and thoughts. Joyce will update you with any further news. No phone calls please, but if you wish, send a card.

Bobbie Pulido

After a rather long battle in two hospitals, our dear Bobbie Pulido seems to be finally getting a little better.

Mid-March she was rushed to Alexian Bros. and it was confirmed that she suffered a mild stroke. She remained there for just over a week and then went into rehab at DuPage Care where she lapsed again. She was very ill and they transferred her to Central DuPage Hospital where they found she had developed a serious intestinal blockage.

Just recently Bobbie is looking much better and is now being transferred back to DuPage Care.

Bobbie is certainly cheered up by your cards, thoughts, and care. Joyce picks up mail from her house regularly, so please continue to send good wishes to Bobbie at her home address (see roster).

Dean Svec (Cheryl's husband)

Dean had surgery to replace/upgrade his pacemaker and all seemed to go well. Thank you all for your support.



Oh! And I have to mention that I told Dean the garden club ladies send their best wishes. He quipped "Am I going to be in the Trowel?" LOL.

At least he hasn't lost his sense of humor!

Cathy Kreis

I am doing great. I finished treatments on 2/4/22 and started therapy I will have to take for at least 5 years. So far so good.

Spring is bursting forth down here with crocus blooming and daffodils and tulips out of the ground about 4".

Miss you all so much. Thx for checking in!



Vivian Krotz Turns 100 in June!

At our January board meeting Joyce was anxious to bring to everyone's attention that our three most senior members are indeed very "senior" with Esther Ahlrich (88), Jo Dabrowski (96) and Vivian Krotz who will turn 100 in June. In the earnest hope that we can do this, Joyce asked everyone to consider joining her this year to wish Vivian a really Happy Birthday.

Vivian at 99 years young.



Esther Ahlrich (from daughter, Kim)

Esther's daughter tells us she is loving her new home. Please remember Esther and drop her a card: Esther Ahlrich, Magnolia Wing, Rm. 1053, Clarendale of Algonquin, 2001 W. Algonquin Road, Algonquin, IL 60102



Esther enjoying a visit with her great-grandchildren.



2022 Club Officers and Committees

*President	Joyce Basel
*1st Vice President.....	Marietta Serenda (Membership)
*2nd Vice President.....	Laurie Dring (Programs)
*3rd Vice President.....	Linda Kunesh (Ways and Means)
*Treasurer	Cheryl Svec
*Publicity	Jamie Schneck (Website, Trowel, Graphics)
Publicity Committee	
Publications.....	Akhila Meda
Facebook.....	Cathy Gall
Website Support	Dan Vitacco
*Recording Secretary	Linda Steck
*Corresponding Secretary	Joyce Basel
Community Garden.....	Gail Sanders (Plot-To-Plate)
Good Cheer	Jennifer Moore
Hospitality.....	Carol Lockerbie
Memorial Garden.....	Joyce Basel
Nursing Home Liaison.....	Chris Magnatowski

**Denotes Executive Board*

Let Us Hear From You:
jschneck1233@sbcglobal.net
 Call or Text 630-915-0051

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