

The Trowel



June 2022
Volume 10, Issue 2

BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Greetings from our **President**



Joyce Basel

Procrastiplanting: *(verb)*

When you have a million things to do but ignore them and tend to your plants instead.



Hello dear members and friends,
Just when I thought summer might never arrive, today is hotter than hell. It's so humid, when I go outside, I cannot breathe! Well, this is Chicago, it gets like that here. But waiting awhile will always bring change. Hopefully, this heat will bring the thunderstorms needed to water our gardens.

We had a lovely turnout to celebrate Vivian Krotz's 100th Birthday on June 7th. It was delightful to see about twenty of our members at Vivian's house to sing to her. Even family drove in from out-of-state to make it a really nice affair. It was also so nice to see our other "senior" join us—Jo Dabrowski came with Hector and reminded us all that she and Vivian joined the Club the same year . . . over 40 years ago!!!! More about it later in this newsletter with photos for you to enjoy.

As you all already know, we had another hugely successful plant sale with participation from so many of our members!! Everyone came to help at some stage and once again I was happy to see everyone and felt

so proud to be a member of such a wonderful group. Linda will no doubt report to you all in this regard.

We have some "fun" meetings coming up in the next few months and I do hope that you will all attend and participate. We have a huge amount of talent in our club and all of us enjoy sharing our successes . . . and our failures (some of which can be quite funny!)

Our next meeting falls on what is supposed to be "the First Day of Summer"—honestly today feels like one of the "dog" days in August!

I hope you are all well and keeping busy and I look forward to seeing you next week.

As Always,

Joyce





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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.

Memorial Day Celebration

Joyce Basel

Bloomington Memorial Day 2022! At last we could all get together again and it was an absolutely beautiful day! The sun was shining, a nice breeze blowing and the little cemetery on Lake Street looked lovely with all the yellow flags on the fencing and the little crosses and flags at the graves of fallen warriors. Did you know, that there are soldiers buried at this cemetery from as far back as the Civil War?

The Bloomington Garden Club has provided red, white and blue carnations for this occasion for the past thirty or so years! I am always so proud that our Club participates in this manner and I hope you feel that way too. At the end of the ceremony each person there is invited to take a carnation and lay it on a grave—it was heartwarming to see men, women and children spread out to the various graves to lay their carnations.

Yesterday the story was told about the Nation's flag, its origins and reasons and why it was held high in the front of the lines going into battle!! (Being the flag bearer was not an enviable job!). Then the explanation as to why the coffin is draped and the ceremonial folding. The folded flag was presented to our very own Jo Dabrowski whose late husband was a Veteran and one of the founders of the VFW Post in Bloomington. I was honored to be sitting next to her—wow it is such a touching moment. I will never forget it.

I am not sure how many of our members attended, however, I do know that Hector Rivera was there with his grandsons. Thank you Hector for your service to our country!

There's No Place Like Home

Helen Price

Old Garden Club friends will remember that I always had cats. I had 3 of them. The oldest died at the age of 20 and the 2 siblings died at almost 18.

I decided to adopt a dog. My kids took me to the Maricopa County Shelter in Phoenix in late January, where we met Honey, a mutt who was found as a stray near a trash dumpster in Phoenix. She had recently had puppies but they were not found.

She was very malnourished but friendly, and I knew if I didn't take her home she would be euthanized. There were over 500 dogs at the shelter when we visited. She sat in my lap all the way home.

She's the best dog for a new dog owner. I renamed her Sadie. She's house trained and leash trained and she's very protective of me. She's on meds for Valley Fever and I'm hopeful she'll be 100% soon.

The vet said she's part pit bull, but I wanted more details so I had a DNA test done. She is actually a mix of chihuahua, chow chow, pit bull, American bulldog and Siberian husky.

Above are her before and after photos. She's gained 4 pounds and looks so much better. She is a wonderful companion and I love her to death.



Upcoming Programs

6/21/22 Ken Benson, Improving Your Soil
the Natural Way

7/19/22 Tailgate & Walk at Cantigny

8/16/22 Veronica Porter, Cook-Eat-Grow

9/20/22 Members Share Garden Tips

10/18/22 Joyce Basel, Beauty on a Budget

11/15/22 Christmas Craft for West Suburban
Nursing & Rehabilitation

12/13/22 Christmas Party at
Jameson's Charhouse



**Don't miss the Tailgait
& Walk at Cantigny!**

A new exhibition,
"Alebrijes: Creatures
of a Dream World," is
now open and running
through October.

Whimsy alebrijes (pronounced ah-leh-bree-hehs) are labor-intensive works of art, often made of wire skeletons, covered in papier-mache and layers upon layers of brightly colored paint. No two alebrijes are alike! **Try to car pool (\$5 per car) and bring treats to share.**

Photo by Mark Welsh
mwelsh@dailyherald.com



Plot-to-Plate Garden June 2022



Gail Sanders

Thanks to the work of Eileen Spaman, Cheryl Svee and Laurie Dring, the rest of the Plot-to-Plate Garden has been planted. With the variable weather we have been having in May, some things are getting off to a slow start. The weeds are an exception. They have not missed a beat and are growing beautifully. That means we are looking for Club members to join us in tending the garden by weeding and watering. The Garden is located at 259 Springfield Drive, Bloomingdale (do not use GPS). You set your own schedule but need to plan to be there several times during the week depending on the weather and watering needs.



Below is a list of those currently signed up.

May 30 – June 5	Gail Sanders	
June 6 – 12	Laurie Dring	Cheryl Svee
June 13 – 19	Rich Serenda	Marietta Serenda
June 20 – 26	Hector Rivera	
June 27 – July 3		
July 4 – 10	Hector Rivera	
July 11 – 17	Peggy Laraia	
July 18 – 24	Art Dattilo	Marilyn Dattilo
July 25 – 31	Barb Underdown	
Aug 1 – 7	Joyce Basel	Joe Boccuzzi
August 8 – 14	Jeff Dengler	
August 15 – 21		
August 22 – 28	Peggy Laraia	
August 29 – Sept 4	Jeanette Moline	Cathy Dicken
September 5 – 11	Joyce Basel	Joe Boccuzzi
September 12 – 18	Sue Jurkus	Gail Berry
September 19 – 25		
Sept 26 – Oct 2		
October 3 – 9	Jamie Schneck	
October 10 – 16		
Clean up	Gail Sanders	Cheryl Svee

It is a lot for one person to weed and water this garden so it would be good if there are at least two people each week to share the job. The Sunday before your week you will be given instructions so you know what needs to be done, and we will try to answer any questions you have. No experience is necessary. If you can help fill one or more of our slots

**contact Gail Sanders at
630-690-9468 or email me at
sandersgvjp@comcast.net
and we will gladly add your name.**

*Thanks for helping us with
a garden that provides fresh
organic produce to local food
pantries!*

*Doesn't it seem that it's
oh so easy to pull up a
valuable plant but the
weeds don't budge!*





Happy 100th Birthday Vivian!



Tuesday, June 7th 2022 was a picture perfect day for our most senior member **Vivian Krotz's 100th Birthday!!** Members of her adopted family drove in from Saint Louis and Kentucky. They had her ready at

around 1:30 for us to sing Happy Birthday to her! About 20 Garden Club members were there and it was wonderful!

Vivian, of course, looked beautiful as usual! (Joyce wants to look like that when she's 100!!)

The Mayor of Bloomingdale, issued a Proclamation and declared it Vivian Krotz Day in our Village. Joyce read the Proclamation and Vivian was surprised and delighted it contained so much information about her life.



Also reading a Proclamation, were Michael D. Hodve, Supervisor, and Branka Poplonski, Clerk, of Bloomingdale Township and Senior Center.

It was a super turnout and a really lovely occasion. *Thank you to everyone who participated!*



2022 Flower & Plant Sale—Wonderful Again!

Linda Kunesh

Bloomington Garden Club had an extremely successful Flower & Plant Sale this spring. This was despite the sad news last year that Sunrise Greenhouse, our professional grower, would not be able to take us as a wholesale customer. Well,



that of course did not sit well with the Flower & Plant Sale Committee so we took a trip to Sunrise in July, 2021, to see if we could perhaps convince them otherwise.

We met with Jeff Huizenga, one of the owners, who explained that not only had their retail business flourished during the pandemic, they also



were experiencing great difficulty finding workers, and our order historically was very large. Jeff noted that his wife usually spent 12 hours just checking our order after it was pulled and before it was loaded on the truck. The only way Sunrise could consider working with us again and supplying our flowers was if we went there to pull our own order.



The Committee took a few minutes to ponder what that would actually mean. Needless to say, we understood some of that, but certainly not all of what “pulling our own order” meant. But we left there feeling somewhat confident

we could do it if we had a lot of help and a lot of luck!

Shortly after, we reached out to a number of other wholesalers who told us similar stories. Most importantly, they, too, could not find enough workers so they decided not to provide plants for garden clubs and their sales in 2022.

Then through the recommendation of Kathi Rose, long-time friend of our club, and that of Clark Hudman, owner of The Barn Owl, we were connected to Clesen

Wholesale in Evanston. Clesen primarily sells 4 ½”, 6”, and 12” pots of annuals...no flats, no veggies, and very limited baskets. The

Committee continued to meet into the fall and we determined

that if we order fewer flowers from Sunrise and most of the 4 ½” annuals from Clesen, perhaps we could pull off another Sale for 2022.



On May 9, 15 of us caravanned to Sunrise and pulled our order of 233 flats; 286 hanging baskets; 257 - 6" pots of specialty annuals, tropicals, and grasses; 162 cases of accessory plants; 16 cases of geraniums; 15 cases of wave petunias; and 39 cases of vegetables and herbs. We also pulled 39 cases of 4 1/2" Proven Winners which we could not



Master Gardeners

get at Clesen. Cases, by the way, hold 10, 14, or 18 plants!

The 286 hanging baskets, however, proved to be the most difficult since they are suspended from the ceiling and we are not very tall! Sunrise could not provide a worker to get the baskets down. But thank goodness, the Park District sent along two men to help us! The entire process of pulling our order and double checking it took more than 6 hours! We were exhausted but elated that we pulled our plants and were able to make substitutions on the spot.



Two days later, Sunrise delivered them to the Park District Maintenance Building.

We also ordered more than 160 cases of 4 1/2" plants from Clesen that were delivered on Thursday. The



rest of Thursday, we completed our inventories and pulled the pre-sale orders.

Another change we made for the Sale this year was to have the 67 people who had pre-sale orders pick up their plants Friday morning

with the added incentive that they could shop early. And shop they did! We opened to the public at noon!

For the most part, our sales were brisk. And despite the many challenges, our club still made a profit of more than \$6,400. This is significant as Cheryl noted that the cost of our flowers and plants had increased by nearly 25% over the previous year.



Once again, we had tremendous help from our club: 38 club members, five of whom were new to Bloomingdale Garden Club! Member Joan Skotleski, also returned from her new home in Kentucky to help us! And we had help from three long-time friends (Kathi Rose, Leslie Mabbott, and Roberta DeBasillio), and Cathy Gall's husband, John, and son, Chris.

In addition to donating their time, members donated tools, gardening books and magazines, nice plant container and pots, and Barbara Weisenburger donated a new portable Weber grill and a stand for our silent auction. We also raffled off two container gardens, one for shade; the other for sun. And Master Gardeners were on hand throughout the Sale talking with our customers and answering gardening questions.

Donations of plants were given to DuPage Care

Center, GardenWorks Project, WINGS, and community gardeners.

As in the past we are indebted to Bloomingdale Park District for the excellent venue, assistance from many of their staff, and their WHOPPING pre-sale order of plants to beautify the parks in Bloomingdale!

The Flower and Plant Sale Committee will meet in June to debrief how the sale went and hopefully begin planning for 2023. Don't hesitate to contact any one of us if you have thoughts or suggestions!

Thank you all for your time and talents!



Your 2022 Flower & Plant Sale Committee

Joyce Basel • Gail Berry • Jeff Dengler • Cathy Gall
• Kathryn Kacalo • Linda Kunesch • Jennifer Moore
• Joan Skotleski • Henia Sullivan • Cheryl Svec

2022 Plant Sale Financial Report

Submitted by Cheryl Svec

Income:

Pre-orders (67 sales)	12,651.50
Collected Days of Sale – Deposited	13,278.47
	25,929.97

Expenses:

Sunrise Invoice	12,562.66
Clesen Invoice	4,771.50
Starting Cash Box	700.00
Table Rental	600.00
Misc. Expenses (potting soil, printer ink, tablecloths, pencils)	263.14
Caladiums from Platt Hill	251.13
Credit Card Fees	143.57
Master Gardener Help Desk	125.00
Tip for Delivery Men, BPD staff at Sunrise	70.00
	19,487.00
Net	6,442.97

Other Notes and Fun Facts:

45 people asked to be added to our mailing list!
7 - \$2 coupons from senior fair redeemed
2 Refund vouchers totaling \$44 issued / redeemed

Credit Card Sales	5211.00	81 Sales
Fees Incurred	(143.57)	148.00 Fees Collected
	5,067.43	4.43 Profit on fees

Perennials	380.00	(-48 cost of soil)
Raffle Pots	252.00	(-40.10 cost of plants/soil)
Silent Auction	80.00	(Grill was donated)
Misc, tools, books, magazines	147.00	(Items were donated)
Collected:	859.00	71.00 Less above costs

Donations/Transfer

DPCC (2020 Obligation)	400.00
Leftovers to DPCC	149.22
GardenWorks	83.95
Community Gardeners	67.17
Leftovers to BGC Members	270.87
Wings	52.50
TOTAL	1,023.71

Plant Sale Winners

Weber Q120 Propane Grill with Rolling Cart

Donated by Barbara Weisenburger

Silent Auction Winner:

Chris Magnatowski
for \$80



Winners of Raffle Pots:

Shade: Meg Tully

Sun: Callie Wilkinson



Brown Recluse Spider

Rick Loebach / Submitted by Linda Kunesch ·



At this time of year, this is worth seeing. Show these picture to your spouse, your kids, grand kids, and friends. It could save their lives. Remember what this Spider looks like

and be careful while cleaning, as told below.

It's summertime & cleanup is going on. Be careful where you put your hands. They like dark spaces & woodpiles. Also cool areas in the attic.

The Brown Recluse Spider is the most dangerous spider that we have here in the USA. A person can die from its bite. We all should know what the spider looks like.

Send this around to people you love, because it is almost summer time. People will be digging around, doing yard work, spring cleaning, and sometimes in their attics. Please be careful.

Spider bites are dangerous and can have permanent and highly negative consequences. They like the darkness and tend to live in storage sheds or attics or other areas that might not be frequented by people or light.

If you have a need to be in your attic, go up there and turn on a light and leave it on for about 30 minutes before you go in to do your work.



Winter Birdies



Jamie Schneck

This winter I put a pie tin pan out with seed on the front porch for the birds, so they could feed during heavy periods of snow. I had so much fun watching them from my front door window perched by the dozens in the fragrant viburnum before grabbing mouthfuls and returning to their safe spot. I also threw out unsalted peanuts in the shell for the squirrels to deter them from the seed.



Little did I know, other menacing birds were also out scrounging for food. I started noticing a few geese in the area, even on the rooftop of



my neighbor's house. We usually see them in yards where there is grass to feed on. This flock of 6 to 8 geese, however, had their eyes

on the little birds congregating at the front of my house. They were very interested in what they were doing.

Before I knew it, they made their way closer into the front yard. My Prairie Fire Crabapple trees had already dropped berries where the cardinals had fed. I thought that's where they were going. But oh no . . . they spied an easier meal. As I pulled into the driveway, eight geese caught



wind I was home and one by one, just like a parade, made a speedy retreat off my front porch.

I couldn't believe the mess they made—not from eating seed, but from pooping everywhere, all over the porch. I removed the seed immediately, but these geese were not going to be deterred. They made camp in the front yard. I had to bang pots and pan lids together to chase them away.



They didn't go far. At least 6 of them sat on the sidewalk across the street for days just waiting and watching. (See the bunny?) I felt sorry for the neighbors.

I found a small bird feeder at the dollar store, filled it with seed, and tucked it deep into the viburnum so my little friends could still feed and have some protection. The geese gave up and only a squirrel bothered to climb in to hijack a few meals.

On another trip home, again pulling into the driveway, there sat a red-tailed hawk on the corner gutter of the garage, right above the viburnum. I was glad the bushes provided protection for my little friends.



As for the geese, a couple of them still hung out watching and waiting for about 2 to 3 weeks. They were welcome to eat all the berries that had dropped from the trees. I figured at least our yards would be well-fertilized and happy in the Spring.

Biggest Beautiful Blooms

Linda Kunesh

My Itoh peony. I think I have about 30 or more buds! I am so tickled! Diameter is 7.5"!!!



Tim Moore

I am so sad to be the bearer of the news that our dear Jennifer Moore's beloved husband, Timothy, passed away recently in the early hours of the morning.

He had suffered from a cancer that radiation could not abate.

Tim will be cremated and Jennifer will advise us later of any Memorial or Celebration of his life. In the meantime, no calls please, but send cards and wishes to her family at 336 Elmwood Lane, Bloomingdale, IL 60108.

Joyce



Bobbie Pulido Update

I just wanted to let you all know that Bobbie is going to be moved to Sunrise long term care facility on Lake Street, Bloomingdale, most likely by the end of the month. Her family made the decision and although I would love to take her home again, it is not to be.

Please do visit with her if you can and send cards if you wish. I am still looking after her (and her house and plants, etc) so you can send the mail to her home and I will be sure she gets them.

Now for something positive.....

During Bobbie's time at home with care, we met a really fine woman Michaela Luptak who came regularly and was a delightful companion to Bobbie. She also helped her cook and do fun things around the house and even in her garden.

Michaela is ready and willing to work for any (all) of us . . . she is an excellent caregiver, she is willing to do housework and also would be happy to help in the garden.

She is strong and energetic and I would highly recommend her. She charges \$25 per hour. If anyone is interested or needs other information, just call me.

Joyce



Garden Club Info Box

Gail Sanders
The Bloomingdale Garden Club sign in our Plot-to-Plate Garden has an

addition. An information box has been attached to the left pole. Information about our garden club is available to passersby. Before the Plant Sale it contained flyers about the sale. Now it has a brochure about the club. It is a great outreach to those who may want to know more about us.



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
Photography	Debbie Matuszak
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.....	Carole 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