

# The Trowel



March 2023  
Volume 11, Issue 1

## BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

### Greetings from your **New President**



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*"A friend is one who overlooks your broken fence and admires the flowers in your garden."*

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Hello Friends,

I am privileged to take over as your new President and am looking forward to serving you in this new role. Many thanks to Joyce Basel, who has led this club for 18 years. I am grateful for her many years of outstanding service to us and am glad to know she is only a phone call away to provide any guidance necessary.

We had a productive business meeting in January where we decided on donation distributions to local organizations and installed new officers. I want to recognize and thank Laurie Dring for serving two terms as Programs chair and for volunteering to now take on the Treasurer duties. Also, my sincere appreciation to Cathy Dicken and Jeanette Moline for stepping up and accepting the Programs role. As relatively new

members, Cathy and Jeanette are full of ideas and excited to find new and fun programs and activities for our club.

We have had a relatively mild winter with less than normal snowfall and warmer than usual temperatures. Examining my garden beds has revealed many plants already poking their heads out of the soil quite a bit earlier than usual. I love to see the garden "waking up" from winter!

Looking forward to a fun and busy year ahead, especially our Annual Flower and Plant Sale and our 60th Anniversary Celebration.

Feel free to contact me any time with questions, concerns or new ideas for our club.

Warm regards,  
Cheryl

# Thank You, Joyce!

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 2023



Former and longest  
reigning BGC President,  
Joyce Basel

Hello everyone and thank you so much for being here this evening. As most of you know, I have been your President for a hundred years—actually I think perhaps 18 (with only one short 2 year break). This is way too long a time for any one person to hold this office and although

it has been a great pleasure for me, it is time to step down and have someone younger with fresh ideas take over. I am personally nominating our Treasurer, Cheryl Svec and unless we have someone else in the audience who really wants this job, I am hoping that Cheryl will accept the nomination later this evening.

I have said this to you many times in the past, and it is as valid today as it ever was. This is a truly wonderful club with truly wonderful people and we are very lucky to have each other and the superb friendship and camaraderie that we enjoy with each other. It is only about 20 years ago that our club was reduced in size to a mere 14 members and look at us now—with around 60! It is a testament to all of us that we continue to grow and thrive even having endured the years of Covid.

I want to take this opportunity again to thank your Board for all that they do throughout the year. Once again a year with very few Board meetings and, unfortunately, not a great deal of leadership from me. My commitment to Bobbie has taken way more of my time and energy than I ever imagined, and continues to do so.

I step down with the promise that I am still here, will remain a member and help wherever I can to keep the spirit of this club alive and well.

Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart for the many years of friendship that I have enjoyed with you all.



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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.



2023

Take Mom Shopping  
Mother's Day is  
May 14th!

# Annual Flower & Plant Sale

## May 12 & 13

We hope you're as excited as much as we are about spring arriving this month! Your Flower & Plant Sale Committee has been busy reviewing and selecting many plants for our Sale. Once again, we will receive our flowers from TWO professional vendors: Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse, Grant Park, IL, and Clesen Wholesale, Evanston, IL.

Most of our 4½" plants will come from Clesen with the remaining plants coming from Sunrise. Sunrise plants include flats; grasses; tropicals such as Rex Begonias, cannas, and elephant ears; Tuts; geraniums; Wave petunias; & accessory plants. In addition to plants listed on the pre-sale order form, hanging baskets, herbs, vegetables, and additional plants will be available at the sale. **Customers who submit a Pre-Sale Order have the first opportunity to select from the vast array of baskets and additional plants when they come to pick up their pre-sale order on Friday morning.**

Gift Certificates in any denomination are available for purchase. Recipients of the gift certificates must redeem them at our 2023 sale. These make great Mother's Day (May 14th), Easter (April 9th), 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:

Bloomington Garden Club  
c/o Henrietta Sullivan  
1015 Tiverton Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60193



### Perennials at Our Flower & Plant Sale? It's Really Up To You!

For many years we have shared our perennials from our gardens to be sold at the Flower & Plant Sale. We'd like to do this again, however, a new sub-committee is needed to manage the perennials. Tasks include updating the dates on the "Guidelines for Perennials" and coordinating the Potting Party at the Park District Maintenance Building on Saturday, May 6; arranging for the purchase of soil, labels, & clear tape for the plant signs & making the signs; pricing the perennials with colored knives, and finding people to pot up the perennials and water them for about a week until our Sale begins. Empty pots are available in the shed.

Members of the Flower & Plant Sale Committee will gladly share all they know about the details of the tasks listed above and assist as needed. You'll have a lot of fun with this aspect of the Sale. Let Linda know if you and a few friends will coordinate this effort. Thanks!

### WE CAN PROBABLY USE THAT!

Getting ready to do a bit of spring cleaning? Consider donating gently used garden-related items to our Flower & Plant Sale. Donations may include garden books and magazines, large pots/containers at least 10" in diameter, and garden tools. Please bring them to the Park District Maintenance Building on Wednesday, May 10 between 8 and 11. Thanks!

# 2023 Flower & Plant Sale Schedule of Events

## MARCH 1 to MARCH 21st Pre-Sale Ordering Underway

The Pre-Sale Order form is available on our web-site: [bloomingdalegardenclub.org](http://bloomingdalegardenclub.org)

Pre-Sale Order Form with Payment by check is Due on March 21st (no exceptions)

### Tuesday, April 18th • 6:30 PM

Plant Sale Prep Meeting at Cornerstone Faith Community Church. We'll provide a brief overview of this year's Sale. Most importantly, Sign-up sheets for when you can commit to help will be distributed. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Cheryl at 630-930-4990 or [cheryl.svee@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.svee@gmail.com) to let her know WHEN you will commit to help. We ask that each club member sign up for at LEAST two, 3-hour time slots, along with signing up to bring food, give additional assistance, etc.

### Monday, May 8 • Leaving at 6:30 AM from the parking lot at the Community Garden

A group of us will be going to Sunrise to pull our order for the Sale. This is a busy and fun day that will go into the afternoon. "Super Bonus:" We'll probably stop at Mayberry Junction for a delicious lunch after we are finished at Sunrise Greenhouse! Let Linda know if you are interested in joining us.

### Tuesday, May 9 • Tables Arrive

### Wednesday, May 10 • 8 to 11 AM

Maintenance Building Prep and Set-up of tables, tablecloths, and signage.

11:00 AM • Flower Delivery from Sunrise

Help us unload the truck, set out the plants, and inventory them. Bring your family members, friends, and neighbors to help.

### Thursday, May 11th • 7AM to 6 PM

7 AM • Club Members Arrive

8 AM • Flower Delivery from Clesen

Help us to unload the truck, set out the plants, and inventory them.

9:00 AM to approximately 5 PM • Pull Pre-Sale Orders

Help us to pull, check, and set aside pre-sale orders. Perennials also will be set out if needed.

NOTE: Club members who help this day may take home their own pre-sale orders AFTER pre-sale orders are pulled and all remaining plants are re-inventoried.

## Friday, May 12th

7 AM • Club Members arrive

8 AM to 11:00 AM • **Pick Up of Pre-Sale Orders—Open ONLY to Pre-Sale Customers.** These customers also may shop for additional plants including hanging baskets, herbs, and vegetables.

Noon to 6 PM • **SALE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## Saturday, May 13th

8 AM • Club Members arrive

9 AM to 4 PM • **SALE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

4 to 6 PM • Clean Up

**Payment:** Cash, check, or credit cards accepted. There is a service fee for credit card use.

**Raffles:** Two large pots (one for sun; the other for shade) and a Fairy Garden will be available for the raffles.

**For Sale:** Gently-used gardening-related books, magazines, large pots and containers, tools, and other garden items

**Master Gardener Help Desk** will be available throughout the Sale.

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





# Bloomington Garden Club 2023 Budget

Laurie Dring, Treasurer

**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 Bloomington. (Provides meeting space and other assistance to the BGC.) <https://cornerstonefaith.church/>  
\$ 1,600.00

**Bloomington 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

**GardenWorks Project**—Promotes organic suburban agriculture to improve the well-being of our community, the environment, and those facing food insecurity. <http://www.gardenworksproject.org/> \$1,000.00

**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

**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 \$7,000.00**

## 2022 Treasurer Report

### Expense

Membership (Garden Clubs of Illinois District II) ...	\$319.00
Plant Sale .....	\$19,323.43
Monthly Programs .....	\$1,338.02
December Holiday Party.....	\$961.42
Donations .....	\$6,500.00
Community Garden.....	\$89.36
Liability Insurance .....	\$75.00
Miscellaneous (Website, software, supplies).....	\$328.54
Flowers for Members.....	\$239.61
Postage.....	\$23.20
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,197.58</b>

### Income

Membership .....	\$955.00
Plant Sale .....	\$25,786.40
December Holiday Party.....	\$1,040.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$27,781.40</b>
<b>Balance as of 1/1/2022</b>	<b>\$13,583.38</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$1,416.18</b>
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$12,167.20</b>

## Membership Dues

If you did not update your membership dues, please mail a check to Laurie Dring at 308 Wentworth Circle, Bloomington, IL 60108-3034. \$20 for single membership or \$25 for couples.

# Plot-to-Plate Garden

Gail Sanders, Community Garden

The committee met and came up with a garden layout for the 2023 growing season. Seeds have been purchased and onion sets ordered. As we wait for the weather to warm, we are looking for another member for our committee. Susan Glick-Shore, Eileen Spaman and Gail Sanders are current members. If you have knowledge of growing vegetables or are interested in learning and have time to harvest in our garden about once every other week (harvesting takes about 2 hours each time) and deliver to the food pantry, please contact Gail at [sandersgvjp@comcast.net](mailto:sandersgvjp@comcast.net) or 630-690-9468. You would need to make deliveries before 9:00 AM to the Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry. Another duty of the committee members is to plant the garden in early April and mid-May. We would be glad to work with you to help you learn.



Empty, rinse, and remove label.

We need help from all members of the club to collect 2 Liter pop bottles and half gallon (2-quart) juice bottles. They need to be clean with labels removed. We will be using them for a different watering system for tomatoes and peppers. You can bring them to a meeting in March or April.

At the May meeting, we will explain how we will be using them. Also at the May meeting, we will again be asking club members to sign up for a week to be in charge of watering and weeding the garden. Remember that all the fresh, organic produce harvested from this garden goes to food pantries to feed neighbors in need. Thank you for helping us with this.

## Garden Volunteers Needed!

For many years, Bloomingdale Garden Club has supported the therapeutic horticulture program at DuPage Care Center (DPCC) with flowers from our plant sale. Volunteers are now being sought to help with that program. Do you think you might be interested? If so, come join us on Thursday, April 13, 9 AM to Noon for the DPCC Garden Team Orientation. You'll receive an overview of the program and its residents, get tips for volunteering, and learn how you can help improve the quality of life for more than 50 Care Center residents through garden therapy. Contact Linda at 630-306-7854 or [kunesh310@comcast.net](mailto:kunesh310@comcast.net) for more information and to reserve a spot at the Garden Team Orientation.



Joyce's Christmas Cactus

Mini orchids and Mt Christmas cactus in bloom!



# Celebrating Christmas 2022

*Photos by Debbie Matuszak*



We had a wonderful evening at our Christmas Party 2022 at Jameson's Charhouse!

# 2023 Annual Meeting Flatbread Recipes

## Roasted Vegetable, Herbed Goat Cheese & Hot Honey Drizzle

*Debbie Matuszak saw this recipe on the Today Show.*

2 red onions, sliced into ½-inch wedges  
2 red bell peppers, sliced into ½-inch strips  
4 carrots, sliced into ½-inch coins  
2 eggplants, cut into ¾ -inch cubes  
¼ cup olive oil, divided  
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar  
kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper  
8 ounces plain goat cheese (blended with ¼ cup chopped basil + ¼ cup chopped parsley)  
3 flatbreads (pita or naan work well)  
2 garlic cloves, halved  
5 ounces arugula  
hot honey (get at Jewel)  
flaky sea salt for sprinkling



1. Preheat your oven to 425° F. In a large mixing bowl, combine red onion, bell peppers, carrots, eggplant, 2 tablespoons olive oil, balsamic vinegar, salt and pepper. Toss to combine.
2. Divide veggies between two sheet trays. Place in the oven and roast until golden brown and tender, about 15 to 20 minutes. Be sure to toss veggies halfway through to ensure they cook evenly.
3. Make herb goat cheese spread: In another mixing bowl, combine goat cheese, chopped basil, chopped parsley, salt and pepper. Mix to combine. Set aside while you prepare your flatbreads.
4. Using a grill pan or large skillet set on top of a skillet over medium-high heat, toast flatbreads on both sides until warmed though and slightly browned, about 2 to 3 minutes each.
5. Once flatbreads comes off the grill pan or skillet, rub with the cut side of a garlic clove.
6. Build flatbreads: Spread 1/3 of the goat cheese mixture on the top of the slightly warm flatbread.

Add 1/3 of the roasted veggies and a handful of arugula. Repeat process with other 2 flatbreads.

7. Drizzle flatbreads with hot honey and sprinkle with flaky sea salt. Cut into pieces before serving.

## BLT with Avocado

*This recipe and the following were taken from Pinterest.*

2 flatbreads or Stonefire naan  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced  
8 oz. fresh mozzarella  
8 oz. bacon, cooked and crumbled  
1 cup halved grape tomatoes  
1 cup fresh greens (arugula is my fave)  
Cilantro Avocado Lime Sauce (recipe below)



1. Heat oven to 425° F. Place flatbreads on baking sheet and brush with olive oil. Top with thinly sliced garlic.

2. Add fresh mozzarella, dividing it evenly between the two flatbreads.

3. Bake for about 5 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

4. Add bacon to the flatbreads and bake for another 3-5 minutes.

Top with grape tomatoes, creamy avocado sauce, and fresh arugula. Enjoy!

### Cilantro Avocado Lime Sauce

2 avocados, pitted and diced  
¼ cup sour cream  
¼ cup fresh cilantro leaves  
juice of 2-3 limes  
Kosher salt, to taste  
splash of water



Add avocado, sour cream, cilantro, lime juice, a large pinch of salt, and a splash of water to a food processor. Process until it is a smooth, creamy consistency. Season to taste with salt and enjoy!



# Eat Your Veggies! More Flatbread Recipes

## Bacon, Goat Cheese & Fig Jam

8 oz refrigerated pizza dough  
2 tbsp fig jam  
1 tbsp water  
1 tbsp olive oil  
¼ cup + 1 tbsp crumbled goat cheese, divided  
½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese  
2 pieces bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled  
Handful of baby arugula  
Squeeze of fresh lemon juice



1. Preheat oven to 425° F. Thaw dough 30 minutes before using. Let rest on floured surface under a dish towel.
2. Whisk fig jam and water in a small bowl. Set aside.
3. Stretch dough on a lightly floured surface to a 10-12 inch oval. Gently transfer to parchment paper.
4. Brush olive oil over dough (including the edges). Spread fig jam mixture over the dough, leaving a ½" inch border for the crust.
5. Top dough with ¼ cup goat cheese and shredded mozzarella. Top with the crumbled bacon.
6. Transfer flatbread to oven and bake 8-12 minutes until crust is golden and the cheese is bubbly. While the flatbread is cooking, toss the arugula with the lemon juice. Set aside.
7. Remove from oven and cool on a rack. Sprinkle arugula and remaining tbsp of goat cheese on top. Cut into wedges and serve.



## Mushroom, Goat Cheese & Balsamic Glaze

2 Naan slices whole  
8 oz mushrooms thinly sliced  
½ yellow onion thinly sliced  
½ tbsp butter  
2 oz goat cheese crumbles  
½ cup balsamic vinegar  
1 and ½ tbsp brown sugar  
2 teaspoons dried thyme  
1 tbsp olive oil  
Salt and pepper



### For the glaze

1. Mix balsamic vinegar with brown sugar in a saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly until sugar has dissolved.
2. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer until glaze is reduced by half, about 20 minutes. Set aside.

### For flatbreads

1. Preheat oven to 425° F.
2. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add mushrooms and onions and saute for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add thyme, salt, and pepper, and saute until onions are translucent and mushrooms are cooked and soft. Set aside.
3. Brush tops of the Naan with the olive, then add half of the mushrooms/onions to each top and sprinkle with 1 oz goat cheese crumbles.
4. Place on parchment lined baking sheets and bake for 6-8 minutes or until cheese is softened.  
\*You do not want to overcook so watch carefully for browning on the bread. Remove from oven.
5. Drizzle 1 TBS of balsamic glaze over each flatbread. Cut into halves or fourths and serve.

## Meet Our New 2023-24 Program Officers



### Cathy Dicken

After 25+ years working in a corporate setting, and with two relocations behind me, (I am originally from New York City), my husband and I retired in Bloomington.

We have a townhouse, which provided me the opportunity to venture into gardening. I look forward to each Spring and enjoy filling all my planters with a wonderful variety of the season's best, adding hanging baskets wherever I can. I wrap up my gardening in the Fall with a wide selection of mums. I guess that means I'm a casual gardener with lots of good luck!



### Jeanette Moline

I retired a few years ago. I spent 25+ years as a flight attendant. I enjoyed every bit of my career, especially the opportunity to travel around the world.

Now that I am retired, I am able to enjoy one of my favorite pastimes...gardening. As a casual gardener, living in a townhouse, I look forward to the warmer weather where I try my best to prove I have a green thumb. However, my love of travel calls out to me each year. After my planters are full of flowers and I have added a few new perennials in the ground and placed many hanging baskets, I'm usually off for more adventures around the world.

#### NOTE: A Change in Winter Meeting Times

The club voted that monthly meetings from November to February will now be on Tuesday afternoons due to time change and weather. All other months will continue to meet in the evening.

## Travel Corner Farewell

Marilyn Dattilo's career has been all about travel. In 2024 she's turning 80 and will be retiring. She will keep her private practice until then, but is moving it to Classic Travel in Bloomington on Lake Street. This is now where all airline tickets will be issued. Also, Travel Corner will be discontinued.

Thank you, Marilyn, for all your wonderful travel tips and inside scoops that you've shared us with through the years. We wish you a wonderful retirement enjoying all the things you love to do in this new chapter of your life!

## 2023 Program Schedule

**February 21**—Ken Benson, Sharpening Garden Tools (See page 11 for highlights!)

**March 1-21**—**Pre-Sale Order Underway**

**March 21**—Beth Botts, Top Tool Tips

**April 18**—**Flower and Plant Sale Prep Meeting**

**May 8**—Trip to Sunrise to pull Plant Sale Orders

**May 10**—Prep and set-up; delivery from Sunrise

**May 11**—Clesen delivery; pull Pre-Sale Orders

**May 12**—**Pre-Sale Order Pick-up; PLANT SALE**

**May 13**—**FLOWER & PLANT SALE**

**May 16**—Jeanie Iseman, Activism thru Gardening

**June 20**—Garden Tour

**July 18**—Erin McHugh, Late Summer Perennials and those that Attract Pollinators

**August 15**—Veronica Porter, Dietary Strategies for Cognitive Health thru Foods from the Garden

**September 19**—David Brooks, Landscaping with Native Plants

**October 17**—Erin McHugh, Fall Bulbs and Putting your Garden to Bed

**October 29**—**60th Anniversary Gala Luncheon!**

**November 21**—November Craft for West Suburban Nursing & Rehab Center

**December 12**—2023 Christmas Party!

# 60th Anniversary Gala Luncheon!

Joyce Basel

Your Committee is planning a really fabulous celebration and we have already been busy deciding on a delectable menu with choices to meet every palate. An exciting auction/raffle will include an exciting African Adventure! Be sure that you have marked your calendar for Sunday, October 29th, 2023! It promises to be a truly unforgettable event.



## Cleaning & Sharpening Tools by Ken Benson

Notes by Debbie Matuszak, Kbenenson22@comcast.net

- Keep tool locked when sharpening knives, keep finger on blade and pull toward you
- All horticultural knives are sharpened on one side only (inside)
- Use leverage on shovels, pushing back and forth
- Ace Hardware sharpens tools
- Respect your tools, they are sharp!
- Lubricate with WD40
- Honing stone is used to sharpen blades
- Obsidian (volcanic glass) is sharpest substance
- Sharpen loppers on one edge only!
- Wear good protective gloves (toughest ones) while sharpening tools
- Use WD40, Goo Gone, or silicone spray to clean
- Superzilla gets rust off
- To clean a file use WD40 and a wire brush
- Never sharpen a serrated edge
- Hedge shears should be very tight, when blades close together
- Metal files come in coarse, medium and fine
- If the handles are too close together when closed on long loppers, they are referred to as knuckle busters. Don't use those!
- Use double tooth saw for dead wood
- Use Green Sand and Mycorrhizae to increase your garden's vegetable production
- Sharpen the inside edge of a blade and the outside edge of a hoe
- Stop using lawn spraying service on your grass
- Use the right tools for the right job
- Lawnmower blades should be sharpened at Ace after every ten hours of operation





# Maureen Gibson

Jennifer Moore

Maureen's surgery on her hip and leg has been completed and she now is ready for therapy.

She can be found at Beacon Hill Rehabilitation Center, 2400 S. Finley Road, Lombard, IL 60148. Cards should be sent there as she has stopped her mail to her home.

Since she will be there for several weeks, she welcomes visitors (call first), and phone calls. Remember she will be attending therapy sessions and also has a roommate, keep this in mind.

Beacon Hill is south of Roosevelt Road, on the right side (West Side) of Finley Road.

# Bobbie Pulido

Bobbie as many of you know is in a memory care unit of a rehab facility. She apparently fell. She injured her hip and underwent surgery.

Joyce Basel said that cards would be brought to her if sent to her home address.

Bright, cheerful, colorful cards can be sent to:

Roberta Pulido  
381 Mensching Road  
Roselle, IL 60172-2992

## Recycle Bread Tags

Mary Sue Fornari is Collecting

We've partnered with SCARCE for this recycling project. SCARCE works with Danielle Cres for Chairs to recycle bread tags. Funds raised through recycling bread tags provide mobility equipment for those in need. Learn more on [www.scarce.org](http://www.scarce.org).



## Donations to West Suburban

Cathy Gall

The garden club members came through in a big way this year in its holiday collection for the residents at the West Suburban Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The generosity of our members is amazing!

Donations of fleece blankets (many of them homemade), shawls, scarves, and socks will warm more than just their hearts! Soft, cuddly Beanie Babies will be a great comfort to many! Lotions, body wash, nail care kits and other personal health & beauty items were collected. One of our members handmade 60 bracelets which Vina (the Activities Director) said the ladies will certainly love! To keep residents entertained, cards, puzzle books, pencils and markers were collected—and for their sweet tooth, chocolates and candy canes too!

In addition, at our November club meeting, members made beautiful angel door hangers for each of the resident's rooms! It was quite a project and the efforts of our "craft committee" and members was outstanding!

Per Vina, the support of the garden club for the past 3 holiday seasons is so appreciated by the residents! Thanks to all!



## 2023 Club Officers and Committees

*President .....	Cheryl Svee
*1st Vice President.....	Marietta Serenda (Membership)
*2nd Vice President.....	Cathy Dicken and (Programs) Jeanette Moline
*3rd Vice President.....	Linda Kunesh (Ways and Means)
*Treasurer .....	Laurie Dring
*Publicity .....	Jamie Schneck (Website, Trowel, Graphics)
Publicity Team	
Publications.....	Akhila Meda
Photography .....	Debbie Matuszak
Proofreading .....	Linda Kunesh
Facebook.....	Cathy Gall
Website Support .....	Dan Vitacco
*Recording Secretary .....	Linda Steck
*Corresponding Secretary ....	Joyce Basel
Plot-to-Plate Garden .....	Gail Sanders Susan Glick-Shore and Eileen Spaman
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