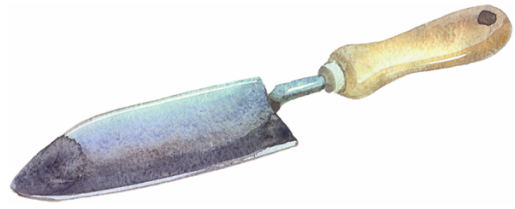


# The Trowel



July 2025

Volume 13 • Issue 1



## UNDER THE CANOPY

Jamie Schneck

We needed a tree in our front yard. The Ash Boar took out 5 Ash trees in our lot not long after we moved into our home in Carol Stream. I just love the beautiful fall colors of the Maples in our neighborhood, but realized, by over-planting the same tree, the same problem could occur with another invader in the future. Plus, have you seen how the Maple trees metastasized this year? They dropped millions of seeds! I have thousands of little sprouts growing in my yard right now—argh!

So, our good friend/club member/ Master Gardener, Gail Sanders, took a particular interest in the kind of tree I was thinking about planting. For at least 2 years, she

### Greetings from our President

Hi Everyone,

It's so good to be back! After a bit of a break, we're excited to bring the Trowel back to life—just like a garden waking up after a long winter's nap (even if it is July!).

We've been a busy club for the past few months: interesting speakers at our monthly meetings, another successful plant sale and our Plot-to-Plate community garden is now producing fresh vegetables for local food pantries. Thank you to all of you

who volunteer your time and energy to help our club make a positive impact on the community.

After a long, cool Spring, Summer has come upon us with a vengeance! While we are fighting to keep cool, our gardens are exploding with beautiful flowers, delicious produce and, of course, a lot of weeds! I hope you are enjoying your gardens, and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Happy gardening!

Cheryl



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**“The true meaning of life is to plant trees; under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”**

—Nelson Henderson



urged me to plant an Oak tree. With this in mind, I kept an eye on all the different kinds of trees throughout my neighborhood, their shapes, shade coverage, and how they were handling climate stress. So many to choose from!

This Spring I went to the Wheaton Native Plant Sale with Linda Steck. They only had 5 twig-like Red Oaks they were selling for \$35 each. I learned this size of a tree is called a **Sapling**. A tree goes from a **Seed**, to a **Sprout**, to a **Seedling**, and then to a **Sapling**.

After checking in with Julie for utilities, and the Village for all the authorized parameters for planting in the parkway, my husband dug the hole. Before putting the little guy in, we put down a layer of worm casings, then cow manure and fresh top soil. The tree went in so the flare was above ground and we pressed down to get out all the air pockets. Then we watered. Gail suggested purchasing a tree hydration bag (which I got at Ace), and honestly, this tree is growing!

The leaves are big and beautiful and it's gained at least a foot in the month. It's like raising a child—we keep our eyes on it and give it what it needs. What a wonderful experience this is. I really should give it a name! Anyway, I'll give you updates on how it's growing from time to time so you can share in the excitement with us.

Thanks Gail, for talking me into this. We can't wait until this becomes a **Mature Tree**! *All this info is from Davey Tree*. Hope you learn with me!

**Seed:** Grown by a parent tree, packed with nutrients needed to sprout, and dispersed by wind animals, insects, and more.

**Sprout:** Seeds that settle in favorable locations will wait for the right conditions to germinate. The root breaks through the exterior and attaches itself to the soil and then a shoot pushes it way up towards the surface.

**Seedling:** Once the shoot emerges, the sprout becomes a seedling. The soft green stem will harden and turn woody as it grows.

**Sapling:** When the seedling reaches about three feet tall, it becomes a sapling, or young tree. Saplings generate energy for growth and have a high tolerance for stress.

**Mature Tree:** A tree reaches maturity when it can produce seed and reproduce. It uses most of its energy on reproduction, maintenance and defense, and has less tolerance for stress.

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## HOW DO YOU PLANT A TREE?

1. Prepare your planting location: Make sure to dig a fairly wide area, much larger than the pot.
2. Don't plant the tree too deeply: When you remove your tree from the pot and place it in the hold, make sure the base of the tree's trunk is sitting out of the top of the hole slightly. If you plant too deeply, the tree is more likely to develop diseases and poor root structure.
3. Secure the tree in place: Once you have the tree positioned in the hold, fill around it with loose soil, and then oppress down on the soil to secure it around the base.

Using a running water hose to drive out air pockets may also be needed.

4. Give the tree a good drink: Make sure to give your tree a good soak, so it has the resources it needs to adjust to its new location. You will need to water it regularly for several months to support healthy growth.
5. Mulch around the base of the tree: Mulch or compost can help to keep weeds away and help the tree retain moisture. Don't heap mulch or compost up around the base of the tree's trunk. It can cause disease and smother the tree's roots.



## HOW LONG CAN TREES LIVE?

Average Life Span of . . .

Birches: 80 – 200 years

Red Maple: 110 years

Beech: 200 – 400 years

Oak: 700 – 1000 years

Ponderosa Pine: 1000+ years

Bristlecone Pine: 4900+ years

## 2025 PAST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Debbie Matuszak

- **February** was our Annual Business Meeting with a Pizza Party and 3 raffles!
- In **March** one of our favorite speakers, Ken Benson, gave an informative talk on Landscaping with Curb Appeal. He showed us the dos and don'ts, visual appealing gardens, avoiding common mistakes, and trends influencing Midwest landscaping. We raffled three themed gift packages: tea and treats, snack attack and a handmade diamond gem bookmark.
- We had a special **May** event to spotlight our talented club members' talents. The presentations were an African Safari with slides of flowers, fauna and animals, Potpourri Tips and Recipes, Drying Garden Herbs How-To Class, and baking demonstration on Copycat Trinidad Candies. We raffled two beautiful orchid plants.
- Nina Koziol gave us a beautiful presentation on Gardens of the Pros in **June**. She shared many creative ideas on types of plants, garden layouts and designs. We raffled a signed copy of Nina's book "White Gardens: Creating Magnificent Moonlit Spaces". Also, two unique Voodoo plants and several roses were given to everyone that attended.



This garden at Springfield Park is supported by Local Master Gardeners of Illinois Extension.

## 2025 FLOWER & PLANT SALE FUN FACTS

### Another Great Accomplishment!

Linda Kunesch

**2025 Plant Sale Committee:** Jeff Dengler, Cathy Gall, Kathryn Kacao, Linda Kunesch, Jean Kurzynski, Jennifer Moore, Ofelia Rivera, Henia Sullivan, Cheryl Svee

- A whopping 72% of our members helped with this year's Sale!
- Our Flower & Plant Sale truly provides a service to our communities. Many long-time customers commented they look forward to our sale every year.
- Bloomingdale Park District staff continued their incredible support of our Sale with assistance before, during, and after the Sale. The Park District also purchased hundreds of flowers and plants.
- In addition to 35 members, seven family members and friends donated their time and talents to our Sale.
- Those who went to Sunrise to pull our order were mistaken as Sunrise employees! Looks like as much as we love our aprons, perhaps we shouldn't wear them at Sunrise.
- Sixty-four (64) pre-sale orders brought in \$11,586. Club members purchased \$840 in plants on Wednesday and Thursday. Pre-sale customers purchased an ADDITIONAL \$3,343 in flowers and plants when they picked up their pre-sale orders.
- Recipients of donations of flowers included WINGS, Bloomingdale Park District, Cornerstone Faith Community Church, Sustain DuPage, and DuPage Care Center. Twenty-two club members also received some left-over plants.
- The total income from the Sale was \$26,161. Expenses were \$20,350. Resulting profit was \$5,811!!!
- **Our 2026 Flower & Plant Sale will be May 8th & 9th.**

## GIVING GARDENS CELEBRATION

**Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> • Noon to 3 PM**

Joyce Basel

A "Decade of Giving" is the celebration we are hoping EVERYONE WILL ATTEND on Sunday, 20th July 2025.

Ten years ago, three members of the Bloomingdale Garden Club, approached Joe Potts with the idea of creating a community garden to grow fresh produce to donate to local food pantries. The Park District welcomed the idea and within two years, the Community and Giving Garden was established. Our garden named "Plot to Plate" was one of only three in the first year. We partnered with Roselle Garden Club and the Master Gardeners.

Ten years have gone by and several thousand pounds of fresh organically grown vegetables and herbs have been donated to those in need. This is an accomplishment of which we can all be justly proud, and celebrating this milestone is an event that all members should participate in.

The event is at Springfield Park across from the maintenance building where we hold our plant sale. A huge party tent will house the guests, fine food will be offered, fun auction items, a cash bar and a delightful program to recognize and honor those who have worked so hard to make this garden successful.

Your invitations are in the mail, RSVP quickly please. The cost is only \$35 per person and it will be an event filled with camaraderie and fun. Please support this event and those who have been so diligent in their endeavors!



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Debbie Matuszak

### Friday, July 11, 10:30 AM Garden Stroll

You're invited to join other Garden Club Members and Master Gardeners for an informal garden "stroll" at Linda Kunesh's gardens, 310 Arapahoe Trail, Carol Stream. Hundreds of perennials, flowering shrubs, & annuals are featured. The front yard Pollinator Garden and Calamintha bring in a LOT of bees and butterflies. She'll share with you some "Garden Tips" she's implemented over the years to extend her growing season. **Please Park only on the SOUTH side of the street.**

Gail Sanders offered that members may also stop by her house as she is only a couple of blocks away from Linda. Gail's address is 213 Arapahoe Trail, Carol Stream.

### Tuesday, July 17, 6:15 PM Plant Propagation (stem cuttings, layering and divisions)

Our speaker is Dolly Foster. We will raffle two gift cards, a breakfast restaurant and a Culver's gift card. We will also circulate a sign-up sheet for August tomato tasting event.

### Monday, August 25, 10 AM Gardens at Ball Horticulture Tour

We will tour the Gardens at Ball followed by gathering for lunch afterwards at Egg Yolk Café in West Chicago. More information and details to follow in August.

### Tuesday, August 19, 6:15 PM Topics may include Peculiar Pollinators and Wrapping Up Your Garden for the Fall

Our speakers will be Jeff D, Laurie, Cheryl, Linda. We will also be sampling different varieties of tomatoes, tasting them, and choosing our favorites. We will circulate a sign-up sheet at this meeting for the September potluck picnic.

### Tuesday, September 16, 6:15 PM Potluck Picnic at the Church

Indoor (possibly outdoor) with fun games planned. It's a great time to get to know other members in the club!

### Tuesday, October 21, 6:15 PM Bonsai Plants

Our speaker is Jeff Schulz. He will teach us the basics of designing, styling and general care of Bonsai plants.

### Tuesday, November 18, 6:15 PM Christmas Craft for West Suburban

We will also have elections!

### Sunday, December 7, (Time TBA) Holiday Christmas Party at Jameson's Char House

Date is still tentative. More about this to come.

### Tuesday, December 16, 6:15 PM Make and Take Christmas Centerpiece

Demonstration and instruction will be led by Kathi Rose.

## Plot-to-Plate

Gail Sanders

At this point the garden is completely planted and things seem to be growing well. Thank you to everyone who has answered the call to help in the garden. Below is a list of volunteers and as you can see, we could use 4 more people to help out. Let me know if you can help by contacting me at [sandersgvip@comcast.net](mailto:sandersgvip@comcast.net) or 630.699.3326.

In addition, I would like you to save tin cans (16 oz), the kind vegetables and soup come in. Please take off the label and top lid and clean them out before bringing them to a meeting. I will use them to make small bouquets to take to the food pantry when our flowers come in.

### Help Still Needed • Please Sign-up (2 people each week to water):

May 20 – June 1	Plot-to-Plate Team	
June 2 – 8	Joseph Boccuzzi	Joyce Basel
June 9 – 15	Cheryl Svee	Ofelia Riveria
June 16 – 22	Jennifer Moore	Jennifer Moore
June 23 – 29	Henia Sullivan	Veronica Martinez
June 30 – July 6	Claire Krauss	Mike McElroy
July 7 – 13	Debbie Matuszak	Jamie Schneck
July 14 – 20	Dean Hacker	Barb Underdown
July 21 – 27	Mike McElroy	
July 28 – Aug 3	Dawn LaVeau	Cheryl Svee
August 4 – 10	Joey Gander	
August 11 – 17	Jennifer Moore	Jennifer Moore
August 18 – 24	Jeff Dengler	
August 25 – 31	Barbara Weisenburger	Barb Underdown
September 1 – 7	Carole Lockerbie	Jean Kurzynski
September 8 – 14	Joseph Boccuzzi	Joyce Basel
September 15 – 21	Debbie Matuszak	Cindy Glenn
September 22 – 28	Linda Steck	Marietta Serenda
Sept 29 – Oct 5	Claire Krauss	
October 6 – 12	Jean Kurzynski	Marilyn & Art Dattilio
October 13 clean up	Gail Sanders	Barbara Weisenburger

## REMEMBERING ROBERTA “BOBBIE” PULIDO

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### Bobbie Pulido

(February 10, 1941 to July 2, 2025)



Joyce Basel

As Bobbie's caregiver for the past six years, Joyce Basel updated garden club members quite regularly about her condition.

As many of you know, Bobbie had only a sister (Anita) and a brother-in-law (Ken); she had no children and neither did her sister. Last week her sister was admitted to Loyola Hospital and diagnosed with a large tumor in her lung. She was admitted into Hospice care. About that time, Bobbie stopped eating, was unusually sleepy, and her condition went into a state of decline.

Sadly, Bobbie passed away the early morning of July 2nd. The kind individuals with Hospice reached Joyce in time for her to be there, hold her hand, and comfort her as she slipped away.

As many of you know, Joyce chose to be Bobbie's caregiver, following up on her suggestion to club members to be "their brother's / sister's keeper." After the passing of Ernie, Bobbie's husband, she needed help especially with doctor's visits, etc., and in January 2019 she underwent hernia surgery and was diagnosed with the onset of dementia. From then Joyce was her companion and help for three further surgeries and throughout the Covid period. Bobbie was admitted to Sunrise Senior Living about four years ago and continued to decline.

Bobbie was born in Chicago on February 10, 1941 and was married to Ernie for some 40 years. They were very well travelled having visited Europe, the Far East and Africa. Bobbie was an artist and dabbled in making jewelry at which she was quite talented. She joined the Bloomingdale Garden Club about 20 years ago and had a beautiful garden at her home in Roselle as well as a plot at the Community Garden. Bobbie was extremely knowledge-able about perennials and helped at the club's plant sale every year.

She was a lovely, friendly and helpful member and for those who knew her, she will be missed. Her remaining family are now in a difficult situation and so there will not be any service or memorial for her.

Please remember to say a prayer for Bobbie's family and for Joyce, who is grieving the loss of a wonderful friend. You may also want to send some loving thoughts out to family and friends about the life of this wonderful woman who was energetic and a fun member of our club for many, many years.

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## I'm Free

by Shannon Lee Moseley

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God has chosen for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call;  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,  
to laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way;  
I've found now peace at the end of the day.

If my parting has left a void,  
then fill it with remembered joys.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;  
Oh yes, these things, I too will I miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
look for the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much;  
good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seems all too brief;  
don't lengthen your time with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and peace to thee,  
God wanted me now – He set me free.

## Seriously Addicting Avocado Feta Dip!

Jamie Schneck

2 ripe medium avocados, fleshed and diced  
4 ounces feta (*block will yield best taste and texture*)  
3 medium Roma tomatoes, seeded and diced  
1/3 cup diced red onion  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 cup chopped parsley (*or cilantro*)  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar (*or white vinegar*)  
1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt, or to taste

1. **Check avocados:** Make sure your avocados aren't too soft so they hold their texture better.
2. **Cut** 4 oz block of feta into cubes.
3. **Add all ingredients:** In a medium bowl add diced avocado, feta, diced tomatoes, diced red onion, minced garlic, chopped parsley or cilantro, extra virgin olive oil and vinegar. Sprinkle with salt.
4. **Gently fold** together ingredients with large spoon until combined. Be careful not to mash avocado.
5. **Serve:** Transfer dip to serving bowl, serve with crackers, chips, flatbread or on its own.



## 2025 Club Officers and Committees

\*Cheryl Svee, **President**

\*Jean Kurzynski and Marietta Serenda, **1st Vice President** (Membership)

\*Debbie Matuszak and Kelly Vitacco, **2nd Vice President** (Programs)

\*Linda Kunesh, **3rd Vice President** (Ways and means)

\*Laurie Dring, **Treasurer**

\*Joyce Basel, **Secretary**

\*Jamie Schneck, **Publicity**  
Publicity Contributors:  
Akhila Meda, Publications  
Linda Kunesh, Proofreading  
Alan Schneck, Photo Retouching  
Cathy Gall, Facebook  
Jamie Schneck, Website and Trowel  
Dan Vitacco, Website Support

Gail Sanders, **Plot-to-Plate**  
Plot-to-Plate Committee:  
Susan Glick-Shore, Eileen Spaman,  
Barbara Weisenburger

Jennifer Moore, **Good Cheer**

Henrietta Sullivan, **Hospitality**

Joyce Basel, **Memorial Garden**

Chris Magnatowski, **Liaison** to West Suburban Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

\*Denotes Executive Board

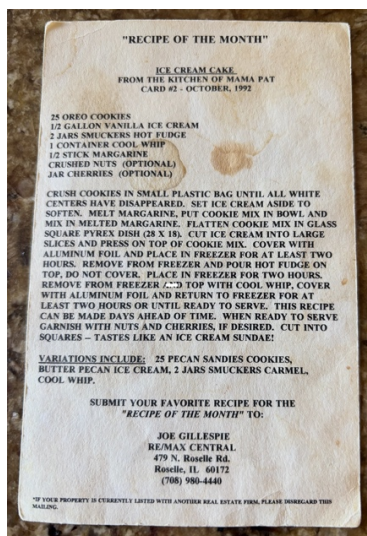
Send Trowel Submissions To:  
[Jschneck1233@gmail.com](mailto:Jschneck1233@gmail.com)  
630-915-0051

Posting Months:  
March, June, September & December

## ICE CREAM CAKE

Jamie Schneck

*Everybody loves this—it's a big hit when entertaining. This old recipe was from the kitchen of Mama Pat in October, 1992.*



**Variations Include:** 25 pecan sandies cookies, butter pecan ice cream, 2 jars Smucker's Carmel, Cool Whip.

25 Oreo Cookies  
1/2 Gallon Vanilla Ice Cream  
2 Jars Smucker's Hot Fudge  
1 Container Cool Whip  
1/2 Stick Margarine  
Crushed Nuts (*optional*)  
Jar Cherries (*optional*)

Crush cookies in small plastic bag until all white centers have disappeared. Set ice cream aside to soften. Melt margarine, put cookie mix in bowl and mix in melted margarine. Flatten cookie mix into a deep glass Pyrex dish (9x13). Cut ice cream into large slices and press on top of cookie mix. Cover with aluminum foil and place in freezer for at least two hours. Remove from freezer and pour hot fudge on top—do not cover. Place in freezer for two hours. Remove from freezer and top with cool whip, cover with aluminum foil and return to freezer for at least two hours or until ready to serve. This recipe can be made ahead of time. When ready to serve, garnish with nuts and cherries if desired. Cut into squares. Tastes like an ice cream sundae!