

The Trowel



September 2024
Volume 12, Issue 3

BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Greetings from our **President**



One of the most widely recognized symbolic meanings of sunflowers is their association with positivity and joy!



Greetings Gardening Friends,

As we welcome the arrival of September, I hope you're all enjoying the beauty of the garden in its late-summer splendor. I am certainly happy to have the ninety degree plus days in the rear view mirror. The last few days of high seventies with cool nights have been a pleasure. It's nice to open the windows once again—and it has been great sleeping weather!

That said, the shorter days make me kind of melancholy. In many ways, I wish summer would last just a little longer. I don't know if anyone agrees, but I'd rather break my back gardening than clean house.

The club has had a busy summer and it has been nice to enjoy one another's company at our events: A beautiful walk through

the Fabyan Japanese Gardens in Geneva; a tremendous garden party at Fu Mei and Bob Thrun's home; a really fun and delicious pot luck picnic at Bloomingtondale's Springfield Park; an informative program on the meaning of flowers given by our own Gail Sanders; and a gorgeous day at the Gardens at Ball Horticulture. Many thanks to Debbie Matuszak and Kim Kennedy for arranging these activities for us (and Linda Kunesh for coordinating the tour at Ball Horticulture!).

May you enjoy the final weeks of summer, and as our summer flowers fade, embrace the blaze of color Mother Nature provides as the trees change in fall.

See you soon!

Cheryl

Garden Proverbs

For The Garden of Your Daily Living

Linda Kunesh

Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness



Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help One Another

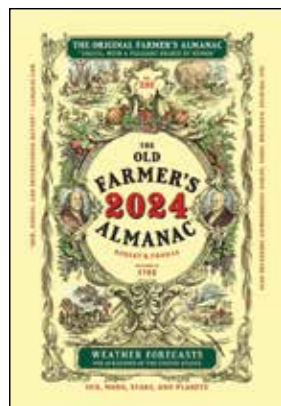
Then We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends



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'The Old Farmer's Almanac' Forecast Winter 2024-2025

If you dream of a White Christmas in this section of the country that includes Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, it could

be a wonderful place to celebrate! Snowfall rates will probably be below average, except during late December, from late January into early February, and from late February into early March. As for temperatures, they'll be warmer in the east and colder in the west.

The Bloomingdale Garden club was formed to encourage the advancement of gardening, development of home grounds, and civic beautification. To stimulate interest, knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs. To aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds. To further the extermination of noxious weeds and to cooperate with other organizations in the beautification of the community.

September Plot-to-Plate Garden



Gail chose a dollar bill to show relation to size. Many heads are 3" in diameter!

Gail Sanders

Despite the great help from our Garden Club volunteers and new fencing and supports for our climbing crops, it has been a difficult season for the garden. Between the voles who ate all of the beets (and I think chewed down the young pea plants before they could produce much), bunnies who attacked lettuce and pepper plants, early blight that weakened the tomato plants, powdery mildew and squash bugs that hit the zucchini and winter squash, cucumber beetles who infected the cucumber plants, and a wet spell that caused some of our onions to rot, it's amazing that we have been able to harvest much at all. As of August 25th, we were at 150 pounds with hopes of making it to 200 pounds by the end of the season. This would be less than half of what we donated last year but the food party is glad to get whatever we bring. As gardeners we know that Mother Nature always has the last say and this year I think she is saying "keep trying this year and think about what you might change so that next year might be better." Now if we could only control the weather, the insects, the bunnies/voles, and the soil and air borne disease.

Our one success story for the year was the garlic. We donated over 9 pounds of garlic and this does not count the heads we set aside for planting later in the month. They were gigantic! Hopefully these cloves will result in a great crop for 2025.

We really appreciate all the watering our volunteers have done and those of you who pulled weeds deserve a gold star. Without your help our totals would be near zero. At this point we have at least one person scheduled for each remaining week of the growing season. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to volunteer for the last few uncovered weeks. If you still wish to help, the following weeks have only one volunteer and that person might appreciate a partner.

September 8 – 14 Roberta Di Basilio

October 6 – 12 Linda Steck

October 13 – 19 Kelly Vitacco

Just let me know If you would like to help during any of those weeks.

Gail Sanders, sandersgvjp@comcast.net
or 630.699-3326



Park District Community Garden Open House

Joyce Basel



The "Open House" celebration at the Community Garden was a huge success with a very diverse and interested crowd

in attendance. Our own members, as well as Master Gardeners, Roselle Garden Club and many of the gardeners themselves turned up to look at the gardens and enjoy a fun afternoon.

The event opened with Joyce giving a brief history of how the garden actually got its start! An idea by then member Marilyn Johnson, was shared with Linda Kunesh and Joyce Basel and taken by the three of them to Joe Potts at the Park District. It was enthusiastically received and energetically followed up with inviting Roselle Park District and the

Master Gardeners to join. Joyce indicated how delighted she was that the combination of enthusiasm and hard work



enabled the gardens to become a reality within a year. She then introduced Lin Drogos who drew up the original plans.

Lin described the planning and inception of the first three gardens which were tended by the Bloomingdale Garden Club, the Roselle Park District Garden Club, and the Master Gardeners. She also indicated that these



gardens are among the finest around because of the huge cooperation received from Bloomingdale Park Department with the availability of water throughout.

Joe Potts shared his recollection of the first meetings and thanked everyone for their years of work and dedication including the



fact that several of the original members remained on the Steering Committee ten years later. Joe also acknowledged the wonderful at-



tention to detail by his own staff including Tania, Mary and Mike Orlik who were all in attendance.

Leslie Mabbott talked about the flower gardens which had been initiated to give those in need of produce also a little "Food for the Soul" and encouraged everyone to stroll through the gardens and enjoy the fruits of our combined labors.

All in all this was a truly fine celebration of a wonderful endeavor by many individuals to provide help for those in our neighborhood



who are in need of fresh vegetables and the joy of a little bunch of flowers.

Visit to Fabyan Japanese Gardens



Debbie Matuszak

In June we toured the Fabyan Japanese Tea Garden, a tranquil oasis in the middle of the forest preserve. George Fabyan commissioned the building of the garden in 1909, shortly after serving as a military diplomat for President Roosevelt. It was designed by Japanese architect Taro Otsuka. Some of the interesting plants at the garden are bottlebrush buckeye, mugo pine,

bloodroot, weeping redbush, grape-leaved anemone, Japanese maple, and pagoda dogwood. There is also an original ginkgo tree and several original weeping spruces.

After visiting the gardens we stopped at Daddio's Diner. It's a retro neighborhood diner that serves comfort food and plays classic Beach Boys tunes while you eat. The restaurant was filled with memorabilia from the 50s, 60s, 70s.



Potluck Picnic at Springfield Park



Debbie Matuszak says our July event was a potluck picnic at Springfield Park in Bloomingdale. It's a beautiful 40-acre park which includes 20-acres of wetland, a one-mile walking path, and a bridge. Everyone brought delicious food and desserts, and we shared a nice early evening meal together spending time with good friends.

The Gardens at Ball Tour

Linda Kunesh



On September 3rd, a beautiful late summer day, 40 people—13 Garden Club members, 12 Master Gardeners, and 15 friends and family members toured the Gardens at Ball in West Chicago which is the international headquarters for Ball Horticulture. The Gardens at Ball have been the evaluation and testing grounds for the world's wealth of horticultural introductions and improvements for more than 80 years. What began as a row trial garden for seed varieties in 1933 has grown to encompass more than 9 acres of 18 display gardens and areas for annuals, perennials, cut flowers and vegetables, including the newest plants from the industry's leading breeders and marketers. In a typical year more than 1300 different varieties and 250 different genera are on display. More than 70 different breeding companies are represented annually.



Purpose of the Gardens

The purpose of the Gardens is to serve as a living catalog as well as a Sales and Marketing tool. Ball hosts annual customer days for wholesale growers as well as



landscapers, horticultural associations, and business groups on special occasions. Garden areas are used for photography, advertising, video, and education. Ball Horticultural Company is a leader in all facets of horticulture. Its global family of breeders, research and development teams, suppliers, and distribution companies has a strong presence on six continents in 20 countries. It is in its 4th generation of family ownership.

We had the opportunity to see not only comparisons of plants (including many that we offer at our Annual Flower and Plant Sale) but also previewed the NEW plants that will be available at retailers next season.

A special thanks to Jan Hanson who provided a great brief history of the gardens and helped to lead the tours along with tour guides Gail Sanders, Pat Kosmach, and Linda Kunesh. Watch for information next summer as we will arrange for another tour at The Gardens at Ball.



Members Are Asking—Who Made That?

Tomato Pie

Recipe courtesy of Paula Deen

Submitted by Laurie Dring

Requested recipe at our August Meeting.

Laurie says, "Instead of a deep dish pie shell, use two thin dish shells. I use about 3 - 4 average size Roma tomatoes per pie. Blanch tomatoes for easy skin removal."

Ingredients:

4 tomatoes, peeled and sliced
10 fresh basil leaves, chopped
½ cup chopped green onion
1 (9 inch) prebaked deep dish pie shell
1 cup grated mozzarella
1 cup grated cheddar
1 cup mayonnaise
Salt and pepper



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° F.

Place the tomatoes in a colander in the sink in 1 layer. Sprinkle with salt and allow to drain for 10 minutes.

Layer the tomato slices, basil, and onion in pie shell. Season with salt and pepper. Combine the grated cheeses and mayonnaise together. Spread mixture on top of the tomatoes and bake for 30 minutes or until lightly browned.

To serve, cut into slices and serve warm.

Zapple Bars

From The Classic Zucchini Cookbook

Submitted by Gail Sanders

Requested recipe at the Summer Pot Luck.

Filling:

5 ½ cups peeled diced zucchini
1/2 cup lemon juice
2/3 cup packed light brown sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg

Crust:

2 ½ cups flour
1 1/4 cups sugar
1/2 tsp salt
2 sticks butter
1 tsp vanilla



Directions:

Heat oven to 350° F.

Cook zucchini and lemon juice in a nonreactive saucepan. Bring to boil and simmer 10 to 15 minutes until zucchini is tender. Add sugar and spices, cook 2 minutes more. Mixture will thicken.

Mix dry ingredients for crust in a food processor. Add butter and vanilla, mix until crumbly. Press half of this mix to cover the bottom of a greased 9x13 glass dish and bake 10 minutes. Pour filling on top and crumble rest of crust mix on top. Bake 45 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely before cutting.



Kelly Vitacco won 1st place for my Cherry Tomatoes at the DuPage County Fair!

She said "It was the 1st time I have ever entered!"

How Does Your Garden Grow?



Joyce Basel



The early rains during springtime really gave my pot plants a good start. The coleus this year is stunning and my Rex begonias are just magnificent. Two of these were wintered inside and so were quite robust already. I have dappled shade in this area and it is really the perfect environment for these plants.

Laurie Dring



Just wanted to share this with our vegetable garden growers. This picture is a 50 cent butterfly mesh house that works well for sun dried tomatoes.

Also, I had to move more mature Romaine lettuce plants from the outside garden so the tomato plants could thrive.

The planted Romaine is thriving wonderfully in my nice, cool house. It's been about five days in captivity!

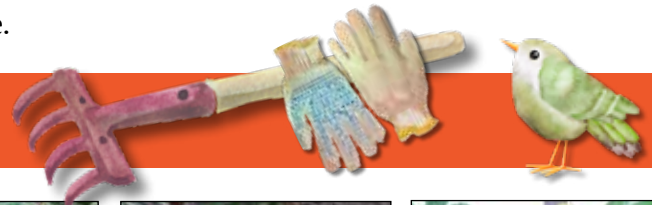
Jamie Schneck



60th Anniversary Seeds



After a late Spring planting, this is the progression of growth of our Anniversary Sunflower Seeds. They love the sun and stay open to the East. Unfortunately, their gigantic heads keep growing and become heavy with seeds. When the stem weakens, there's not much that can be done to make them stand up straight again. This small garden will yield hundreds of seeds that we can harvest and perhaps sell in cute little seed packets at our next flower and plant sale.



Dawn LaVeau



Linda Steck



A Black Swallowtail butterfly visited my luscious citrus lantana and marigolds (also have alyssum and a prince tut) one morning.



Dawn's beautiful garden blooms include Cone-flowers, Dahlias, Hibiscus, Phlox, and Trunpet Vine.



Cheryl Svec



Fu-Mei's & Bob's Garden Party



Cheryl Svec

The Club was once again extended a gracious invitation to a lovely garden party at the home of Fu Mei and Bob Thrun. The weather was perfect, the gardens gorgeous, the luncheon plentiful and delicious. Visiting with friends and making new ones—priceless!



Barbara Weisenburger



On the British Isles cruise, we visited Bodnant Gardens. Timing was so perfect to be able to experience the spectacular blooms of LaBurnum hanging from trellis. This tunnel was so magical I could and have stayed beneath its blooms for hours, but had to move along quickly to visit other areas of this beautiful garden. So many firsthand stories to tell!

Village of Bloomingdale TIME CAPSULE

Cheryl Svec

The Village of Bloomingdale is assembling a time capsule to be opened on September 1, 2049 (25 years from now). While we learned about this at the last minute, the coordinator was kind enough to give us a couple of extra days to put a package together to include in the time capsule. Your board put their heads together and came up with what I think is a wonderful package that highlights our club. This is the letter that accompanied our contribution to the time capsule. I hope our club endures and future members enjoy seeing what we were up to in 2024!



Thank You

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all of you at the Bloomingdale Garden Club for your continued support of HSP and our families. I do not have a contact number or I would have called. Thanks again and I hope everyone is doing well.

Yours in service,
Sandy Bergeson, Donor Support
Humanitarian Service Project



Dear Future Gardeners,

Greetings from the Bloomingdale Garden Club of 2024!

As we bury this time capsule, we are filled with hope and excitement for what the future holds. Our gardens are a reflection of our community and our love for nature, and we wanted to share a bit of that with you. Inside this capsule, you'll find a collection of items and messages from our time:

1. **Club Brochure** – Describing activities of the club, including our philanthropic endeavors.
2. **Door Hanger** – Club members would hang this on the door of a home whose garden they admired.
3. **Annual Flower & Plant Sale** – Advertising Flyer and Gift Certificates.
4. **The Trowel** – Our quarterly newsletter.
5. **Items from our 60th Anniversary Gratitude Gala:**
 - Save the Date Card and Formal Invitation
 - Seeds of Gratitude – Sunflower seeds given to all attendees
 - Mayor of Bloomingdale Proclamation
 - Certificate of Merit from National Garden Clubs, Inc.
6. **Garden Apron** – With pockets for necessary items and to keep your clothes clean while gardening.
7. **Membership Roster** – List of current members with contact information. Check to see if any of us are still around!!!

Currently, we have over 60 members, male and female, of all ages. Our oldest member is 97 and can still be relied upon to join us for parties, etc. She is followed by several in their 70's and 80's, all of whom participate in various activities. Our "younger" members are in their 40's, 50's and 60's and all are energetic and wonderfully engaged in our club's numerous activities.

At our meetings we enjoy charismatic and interesting speakers on various topics and have time for being social and enjoying one another's company. This is really a delightful club! Having just celebrated our 60th anniversary, we truly hope the club will continue for another sixty years and that when you read this you are also enjoying the same wonderful camaraderie that we have with each other.

As you open this capsule, remember that gardening is a bridge between past and future, nurturing not just plants but also our connection to each other and the Earth. We hope that you find inspiration in these treasures and continue to cultivate both beauty and community.

With warmest regards,

Bloomingdale Garden Club of 2024

Thank You

Dear Cheryl and Laura,

Thank you very much for the Garden Club's very generous donation of \$1,000! It is through the generosity of others that we are able to continue to serve those families who are in need of food assistance. I am a regular donor, a volunteer and also a board member for NFP and have resided in Bloomingdale (Westlake Townhomes) for 43 years where we raised our family. By being a volunteer I see and talk with our guests who are much more than just numbers being input. There is no one reason why people come for food assistance and we do not ask them, we only try to help them.

We do have 6 pantries in DuPage County. Carol Stream (2), Glendale Heights, Warrenville, Wayne and West Chicago.

Thank you for supporting NFP and also thank you for what you do to beautify Bloomingdale.

Sincerely,
John Pappanduros
Neighborhood Food Pantries
Board Chair Member





2024 Club Officers and Committees

- ***President** Cheryl Svee
 - ***1st Vice President** Marietta Serenda
(Membership) **Jean Kurzynski**
 - ***2nd Vice President**..... Debbie Matuszak
(Programs) **Kimberly Kennedy**
 - ***3rd Vice President** Linda Kunesh
(Ways and Means)
 - ***Treasurer**..... Laurie Dring
 - ***Publicity** Jamie Schneck
Publicity Contributors
 - Publications..... Akhila Meda
 - Proofreading Linda Kunesh
 - Photo Retouching..... Alan Schneck
 - Facebook..... Cathy Gall
 - Website & Trowel Jamie Schneck
 - Website Support Dan Vitacco
 - ***Secretary** Joyce Basel
 - Plot-to-Plate Garden Gail Sanders
Susan Glick-Shore, Eileen Spaman, Barbara Weisenburger
 - Good Cheer Jennifer Moore
 - Hospitality..... Henrietta Sullivan
 - Memorial Garden..... Joyce Basel
 - Nursing Home Liaison..... Chris Magnatowski
- *Denotes Executive Board*

Let Us Hear From You:
jschneck1233@sbcglobal.net
 Phone: 630-372-6003
 Posting Months:
 March, June, September and December

OUR VISION

To educate members and the community about gardening through informative and educational meetings, workshops and activities

- To develop and promote projects for civic beautification and environmental stewardship
- To support philanthropic endeavors which aid the residents of the Bloomington community and surrounding areas
- To provide opportunities for fellowship for those interested in gardening and environmental and civic responsibility
- To aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds
- To further the extermination of invasive and/or noxious plants

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all persons at his or her request of application regardless of residence. Annual dues are \$25.00 for a single member and \$30.00 for a couple when paid January 1st through June 30th. (\$6.00 pays each member's State Garden Club dues; and \$7.00 for each couple).

Half year dues for new members are \$12.50 for single member, and \$15.00 per couple when paid July 1st thru 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 PM. Program begins at 7. We meet at:

Cornerstone Faith Community Church
 118 S. First Street, Bloomington, IL 60108

Contact Us At:

bloomingtongardenclub@gmail.com

We're On The Web:

bloomingtongardenclub.org

