

# The Spade & The Hoe

Issue 1 Volume 4

April 2003

## April Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 10th at 7:30 pm at Park Center. The program will be on Landscape Planning and Design, and will be presented by Tim Thoelecke, Jr. of Garden Concepts in Glenview. Please plan to attend this excellent program.

## Financial News

After presentation of our financial situation and discussion by everyone present, the unanimous decision was to raise current dues by \$10, effective immediately. This means that everyone who already paid their dues for this year must remit the additional dues to our treasurer.



An Ode to Snowdrops:

'Lone flower, hemmed in with snows, and  
white as they

But hardier far, once more I see thee bend  
Thy forehead as if fearful to offend,  
Like an unbidden guest.'

- William Wordsworth

Since the time I set up the web site, until now, the address I had given was correct. However, the webmaster changed some things and didn't let me know. So, the new address is:

[www.northstarnet.org/Communities](http://www.northstarnet.org/Communities) On The Web/Glenview/Community/Glenview Gardeners (choice #4). When you type in northstarnet.org, then choose Communities; then choose Glenview, click on Community, & finally click #4. This is, I think, just to keep us alert.

## Book Reviews

The Complete Book of Houseplants by John Evans, pub. by Viking Studio Books, 1994. An excellent guide, this groups plants by type, location within the house, seasonal bloom, foliage vs blooming plants, their care & problems, & whether they are quite easy to difficult to grow.

## Through the Garden Gate

As I sit by the window with my morning coffee, I can see the beautiful snowdrops blooming under the pine tree. They are always the first to bloom for me. The daffodils have nice buds on them & the recent rains have made them shoot up so. I look forward to their cheery blooms. My neighbor watches me tiptoe through the garden beds & said he saw me raking the front lawn of debris. That must be done before it can be fertilized. On the next warm day I will be out raking the back lawn. I gingerly removed some of the mulch from around the flowers that have poked their heads through already. Isn't the springtime just wonderful? The birds are returning from their winter vacations & their singing just fills the air with their delightful songs. Trees are beginning to bud out, the grass is greening up, the perennials are returning & the spring bulbs are sending forth their cheery blossoms.

### **What's Blooming Table**

A big thank you to Nancy who brought a coffee tree & to Holly who brought & distributed potted spiderplants last month. Please bring your favorite plants to the April meeting.

### **April is National Garden Month.**



### **Migration Time Is Here**

The grackles are back, the thrushes are passing through, spring is in the air. Be sure to clean & re-fill your feeders, & scrub & re-fill your birdbaths. Our feathered friends will repay you with their delightful songs & flashes of color.

### **Garden Walk**

It is time to plan our annual garden walk, held on July 13th this year. Holly Jansen's will be one of our featured gardens. We need two more volunteers to show their gardens. Whether yours is a 'work in progress' or a masterpiece, please consider entering. See Esther for details.

### **The Book Beat**

Another good reference book is Ortho's Complete Guide to Successful Gardening. It may be hard to find but would be well worth the effort. Everyone should have at least one really good reference book from which to learn. I have about 15, but some of them are on specialized subjects, i.e. roses, houseplants, trees, etc. They also make excellent 'reads'.

### **In April, remember to:**

start seeds indoors for transplanting outdoors in mid- to late-May;  
plants that like cool weather can be set out now;  
divide later-blooming perennials (& pot some up for the plant sale);  
when forsythias bloom, that is the time to uncover & prune roses;  
for lawns, spread pre-emergent crabgrass killer, otherwise, apply the first application of fertilizer.

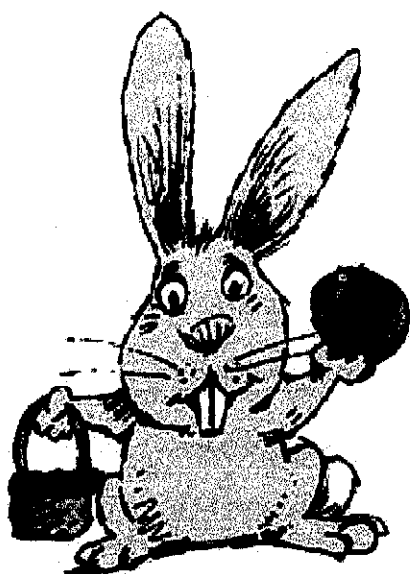


## **Last Month's Meeting**

The March meeting was well attended in spite of a parking problem and the program was just super! Chuck Schiek of Urban Concepts brought a roomful of potted 'trees' to demonstrate the proper methods of pruning. Everyone had loads of questions (including me) and he was most helpful. He left his business cards in case someone missed the program & still wants to talk to him.

### **Street Sale Planning**

As you begin to garden & divide your perennials, please keep in mind our need for fresh potted plants. Last year was our first venture and we have learned a few things from that. **ONLY BRING** small- to medium-sized pots. Large and heavy ones did not sell as no one wanted to carry them down the street. **AND** be sure to put labels on or in each pot stating its name and cultivar, if known. If everyone brought 10-15 pots we would have a nice selection. Start thinking about your donations.



## Conservancy Book

The club has purchased a copy of the 2003 Garden Conservancy Open Gardens book. This book lists the dates, gardens, addresses, and brief biographies of the gardens in every state. So if you are planning a driving vacation somewhere in June, July or August, check out this book. Tickets to the gardens are available at the Botanic Garden.

### Helpful Hints:

A simple way to trap slugs: take 2 clay pots of graduated sizes ( a 4" & a 6" for example) & soak them in water overnight. Then place them upside down in a shady area with the smaller one under the larger. Keep the pots moist. After a day or so, lift the top

one & you will find slugs sleeping in the 'house'. Wipe them out with a sheet of newspaper & discard them in the garbage can. After a few weeks, the slug problem will be solved!

### A report from Nancy

**Spears:** ' Spring is on the way. As we traveled through Indiana, the crocuses were blooming. In Kentucky the daffodils were everywhere & the forsythia were in bloom. Along the Tennessee highway, redbud trees peeked out while the forest floors were covered with tiny spring beauty, Mayapples & a yellow flowering vine. Bellingrath Gardens is in Alabama & we visited the house & grounds. Azaleas, camellias, bridal veil spirea & wisteria were in bloom. White dogwood trees brightened the roadsides with Spanish moss, mistletoe & the dreaded kudzu accenting the live oaks & pines. A favorite tree seems to be the Bradford pear, a white flowering symmetrical tree. Oxalis blooms along the walkways. As we traveled across the Gulf coast,

wildflowers bloomed everywhere: spiderwort, crimson clover, pink swamp coreopsis, white Atamasco lily. The garden clubs of Florida provide an illustrated brochure at rest stops. Bouganvillea, crotons, lantana & lizard tail are blooming. And we found the 'mystery plant' from Gloria's garden blooming happily in the woods.'

-----

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and  
hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.'

- William Wordsworth

Questions, comments, payment of dues?  
Esther Behnke, president & editor 498-4178  
eabehnke@earthlink.net  
Joan Ruehrmund, treasurer 729-1383 dieterrueh@aol.com  
Jane Prentis, circulation 729-3230 jrprentis@msn.com  
www.Glenview.NorthStarNet.org, then click on Community, then on Glenview Gardeners

'From you have I been absent in the spring,  
When proud-pied April, dressed all his trim,  
Hath put a spirit of youth in every thing.'

- William Shakespeare