



The Spade & The Hoe

Issue 1 Volume 2

February 2003

February Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 13th at 7:30 pm at Park Center. This will be a very interesting program on The Care and Feeding of Houseplants by Jamaican Gardens' own Susan Izenstark. She will be bringing samples of the houseplants that will be in her talk. Plan to attend this excellent program.



Roses

Do you know the history of roses? The first fossil record of the rose was 3.5 million years ago. The first written record was by the Sumerians in 3000 B.C. Frescoes of

roses appear on the walls of the palace of Knossos from 1700 B.C. And the first recorded poem was by Sappho in 600 B.C. in her "Ode to the Rose", referring to it as the queen of the flowers. The rose, brought by colonists, is probably the longest-cultivated European plant in North America.

Damask roses appeared in the 15th century, followed by Musk roses in the 16th and cabbage roses in the 17th. Tea roses were created in the 18th, polyanthas in the 19th, and the floribundas in the 20th. The most popular rose of all time, 'Peace', was released after having been smuggled to the U.S. from occupied France in 1945. David Austin roses, miniature & modern shrub roses appeared in the late 20th century. I wonder what kind of roses the 21st century will bring us?



Through the Garden Gate

As we are in the throes of winter, my neighbor and I are keeping low profiles. The Christmas decorations have been brought in, cleaned and stored for another year. I have been checking the small perennials to see if any have been heaved up by the frost, but all are secure in their winter beds. Have you noticed the increasing number of seed and flower catalogs in your mailboxes? Now is the perfect time to give a quick run-through to each, then go back and seriously search for those plants that you must add to your gardens.

My neighbor & I will check in with each other often throughout the winter, especially if the cold spell persists or if there is any appreciable snowfall. We'll often clear each other's sidewalks. We'll do their driveway if there is a lot of snow or if it is very cold as he has had recent health problems.

What's Blooming Table

Nancy Spears had the only entry at the January meeting. Since February's meeting is about houseplants, let's put on a really good showing! Just be sure to wrap your plant in a paper or cloth bag and keep the top closed!

NOTICE

Dues are now due. If you aren't sure if you already paid for this year, check your mailing label. If you have paid, there is '2003' near your name. Help support the programs that your club brings to you each month.

Naming Contest

Out of twenty-two entries to name our monthly newsletter which lo, these many years has remained un-named, the list was reduced to twelve. Then a select panel of judges reduced that further to four. The judges did not know who submitted the names. The entry with the most votes was the name at the top of this newsletter. The winning correspondent was...Dan.

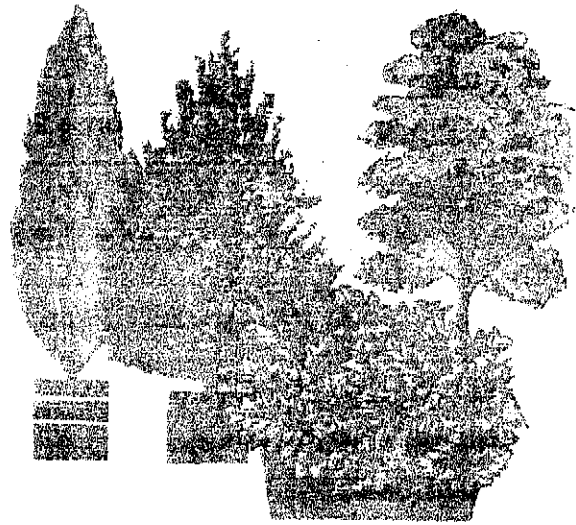


The Book Beat

One of my Christmas gifts is a wonderful book by Gladys Lynwall Pratt and illustrated by Rudolf Freund called *American Garden Flowers*. It was printed in 1943 and the hand-drawn illustrations are something special to see. My daughter Carole knows of my fledging collection of antique garden books but my other daughter Laura also has started a collection. I made sure my book did not end up with her presents when she went home that night!

In February, remember to:

prune only those shrubs that bloom after June 15; those that bloom in early spring should be pruned after they bloom; large trees should be pruned in winter when the skeletal structure is highly visible;
order seeds from reliable seed catalog companies.

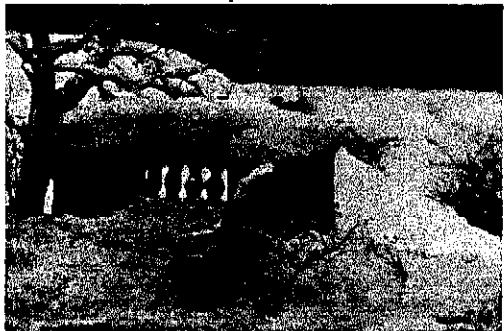


Last Month's Meeting

The January meeting was well attended and the program was just super! Greg Bartosuk's enthusiasm for hybridizing his irises and daylilies was contagious. He showed wonderful slides of his creations and answered all of our questions. We stayed so long, I was afraid the Park staff would throw us out! Greg gave ten lucky persons little envelopes containing seeds of some of his irises. We were told to plant them right away in a pot and place it by a sunny window. Then in spring we can transplant the seedlings to our gardens. We also had three books as door prizes.

Questions, comments, payment of dues?
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Weather



Many people just love when there is no snow. No snow to shovel, no mess trying to navigate streets, dig the car out of a snowbank, late to meetings, work or school. But stop a moment and think about exactly what this means to gardeners -- and their gardens. No snow means the water tables are not being replenished, leading to drought conditions; no snow means, in addition to broken water mains, the death of many of our garden plants whose roots are literally frozen to death; no snow means that the tops of some of our evergreen plants will experience die-back; no snow means sometimes a bleak spring.

Recommended Service People

For tree care:
Urban Arborists
Chuck Sheik
847-657-8710

For lawn care:
Landscaping by Daniel
Daniel Gasca
773-465-0644

Seed Sources

Wayside Gardens
www.waysidegardens.com
800-845-1124,
free catalog

The Fragrant Path
P.O.Box 328
Ft. Calhoun, NE 68023,
catalog \$2.00

Henry Field's Seed Co.
605-665-9391,
free catalog

Milaeger's Gardens
www.milaegersgardens.com
800-466-8142,
online catalog only

W. Atlee Burpee
www.burpee.com,
800-888-1447,
free catalog

J.W.Jung Seeds
www.jungseed.com,
800-247-5864,
free catalog

Klehm Nursery
800-553-3715,
free catalog

Park Seed Co.
www.parkseed.com
800-845-3369,
free catalog

Shepherd's Garden
Seeds
www.shepherdseeds.com
860-482-3638,
free catalog

Select Seeds-Antique
Flowers
www.selectseeds.com,
800-653-3304,
catalog \$1.00