



The Spade & The Hoe

Issue 1 Volume 3

March 2003

March Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 13th at 7:30 pm at Park Center. NOTE: THE PROGRAM WILL BE IN ROOM 203, SECOND FLOOR. This promises to be a very interesting program on The Art of Pruning Trees and When to Call a Professional Arborist by Chuck Sheik of Urban Arborists. He will be demonstrating the correct form for pruning trees and large shrubs. Please plan to attend this excellent program.

Book Reviews

Border's is remaindering a detailed book on gardening. *How to Garden* by Jonathan Edwards illustrates practical techniques with step-by-step photographs of every aspect of beginning gardening, from planning to preparing the soil, to buying shrubs and bulbs, to designing an herb garden. At \$5.99, it is a must-have book!

Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower – but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson
"Flower in the Crannied Wall"

Winter is for planning, but it's not too late to plan your own garden. Study catalogs to see what is available. Measure your garden area and plot it out on graph paper. Then decide on appropriate plants for the area. Send in your order or visit local nurseries to create your own garden with style! Keep in mind our area's last frost date –May 23rd. Generally speaking, tender plants put out after that date should be safe, though occasionally a light frost will be forecast. Just keep an old sheet handy to throw over the plants.



Through the Garden Gate

Well, here we are in the midst of a drought; 40% below our usual moisture level. As I sit and look wistfully at the brown grass, I dream of just a bit of snow! Not 2 feet, but 6 inches would do... I see where the irises in their bed by the bay window are up to almost 2 inches today. Do they know something? Is spring just around the corner? Perhaps instead of snow, we'll get heavy rains. Either one will do. My neighbor watches me tiptoe through the garden beds, searching for new growth, and we wave. He shakes his head, as if to say 'it's too early'. Sigh... At this time of year, I start to get antsy, wanting to get out in the garden. Patience, patience... I must content myself with caring for the houseplants, re-potting a large grape ivy that has been here for probably 20-25 years. I took a cutting last fall & when it got roots, I potted it up. I wonder how long that species usually lives?

What's Blooming Table

A big thank you to all who brought potted plants and cut flowers last month. Please bring your favorite plants to the March meeting.

GOOD NEWS

A grateful thank you to Joan Ruehrmund who agreed to accept the position of our treasurer. Send your late dues to her at 2745 Karen Lane, Glenview. I look forward to working with her this year.

*Now the summer came to pass
And flowers through the grass
Joyously sprang,
While all the tribes of birds sang.*

-Walther von der Vogelweide,
"Dream Song"



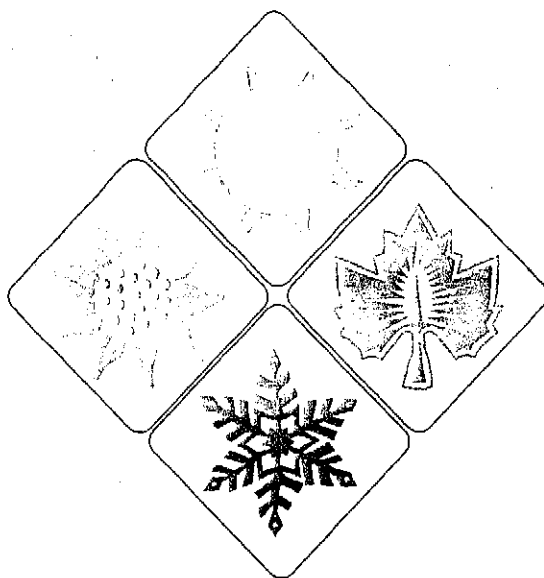
The Book Beat

If you can afford only one good reference book, get *Continuous Bloom* by Pam Duthie of Northbrook. In it, she outlines those flowers that bloom well in her garden, organizing them by their blooming times. Following her plan, you too can have continuous blooms in your garden.

There is another book, *Midwest Gardens* by Pamela Wolfe, that is very interesting. The color photographs help you see what can be in your own garden.

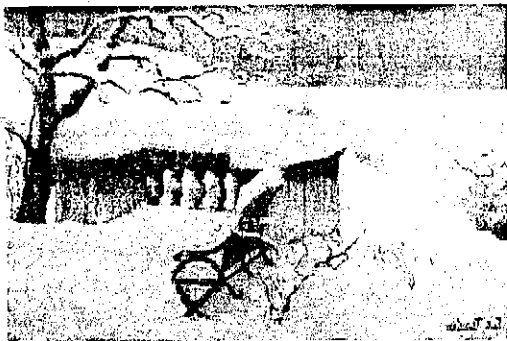
In March, remember to:

leave the compost on the bedding plants as we can still have heavy frosts and snow (or is that wishful thinking?); trim the buddleia bush (butterfly bush) to 6-8", also the ornamental grasses can be cut back to 4-6" now; towards the end of the month clean out the old iris foliage; finally re-pot those houseplants that need it and fertilize them.



Last Month's Meeting

The February meeting was well attended and the program was just super! Susan Izanstark of Jamaican Gardens and her assistant brought a tableful of potted plants to demonstrate their care and feeding. Everyone had loads of questions (including me) and she was most helpful in her answers. I visited her the week after to get some of that citrus fertilizer for my lemon tree. I hope this works & that little tree gives forth some blossoms! But if it doesn't, because I started it from seed, it still is a lovely tree and the leaves are very fragrant. Producing lemon trees, she said, are grown from grafted tree stock. By the way, if you were one of the 10 lucky persons who received little envelopes containing seeds of some of Greg Bartosuk's daylilies, those babies are growing nicely! I had to re-pot half to another pot & they seem to like the east windows. I have 7 seedlings started and they are doing just great so far.



Recommended Service People

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

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

Garden Show 2003

If you have never been to the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, now is your chance. Held at Navy Pier from March 8-16, the show is open Mon. - Sat. from 10am - 8pm, Sun. from 10am - 6pm. It features 25 themed gardens, 200 garden products, lectures, and educational booths. See you there!

Seed Sources

Collector's Nursery
360-574-3832
www.collectorsnursery.com
catalog: \$2

Companion Plants
740-592-4643
www.frognet.net/companion_plants/
free plant list
catalog: \$3

White Flower Farm
800-503-9624
www.whiteflowerfarm.com
free catalog

Plant Sellers & Garden Suppliers

Chalk Hill Clematis
www.chalkhillclematis.com

Stokes Tropicals
www.stokestropicals.com

Blue Hill Country Garden
www.bluehillcountrygarden.com

Windowbox.com not only sells supplies, but gives step-by-step instructions for the novice container gardener

Gardeners' Supply Co.
www.gardeners.com

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