



# The Spade & The Hoe

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## May Field Trip

The next meeting will be a field trip to the Northwinds Perennial Farm near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Several members have been there and stated that it is well worth the drive. Plan to be at my house on Friday, May 16th, at 8:45 A.M. We will leave promptly at 9:00 A.M. I expect we will be returning home about 4:00 P.M. We have 3 drivers so there will be plenty of room us and our purchases. As parking is limited by my house, park on Blake Lane which is 3 doors north of my house (2981 Landwehr Road, half-way between Lake & Willow). This trip replaces our regular meeting in May. See you on the 16th! PLEASE RSVP me or Jane if you plan to go on this trip!!!



Mid-May's eldest child,  
The coming musk-rose, full of dewy  
wine,

The murmurous haunt of flies on  
summer eves.

- John Keats

## Preplanning the Street Sale

The June meeting is very important as we will be discussing the needs and requirements of our booth sale at the street fair. Please plan to attend. If you have extra pots, 4" or smaller, please bring them to share with others. Everyone should be digging in their gardens, potting up some extra plants for the sale. Remember to put name tags on the pots. Avery labels work very well, as do popsicle sticks. Plan to contribute 10-15 pots of plants; I'll pass around the sign-up sheet then, too, so you can choose what time slot you prefer to work. Many hands make for light work!

"The world's favorite season is in the spring." - Edwin Way Teale

Parsley plants should never be given away, if you do you give away your luck.

## Through the Garden Gate

Spring is truly the loveliest time of the year. The Virginia bluebells are blooming, as are the bleeding hearts, pulmonaria, forget-me-nots, scilla, and daffodils. My neighbor came out to talk to me as I worked in my garden. He wanted to know how come my daffodils were blooming and his weren't. They were on opposite sides of the fence, so they should both be blooming. I understand the ones nearest my house have the warmth of the building to help them along, but those by the fence? A week and a half later, his still aren't.

The trees are bursting forth with blossoms and so uplift the soul! And we have such faith that all of our little plants break out of their winter slumber to begin to grow, sending tiny shoots and leaves out into the sunshine. I don't know where "April showers" have gone to, but the "May flowers" seem assured of their place in the sun.

## Medicinal Flowers

Plants which resembled particular parts of the body were often thought to be of benefit to that part and were used in medicines. The shape of liverwort meant that it must benefit the liver and the lung-like pattern on pulmonaria had it prescribed for respiratory problems.



A vase of magnolia buds arranged in the evening will open during the night to scent a whole room.

May Day, the merriest of festivals, is celebrated throughout Europe to awaken the gardens and flowers from the long winter's nap. During the Middle Ages in England, the May Day celebrations were characterized by May poles decorated with colorful ribbons and flowers, bonfires to drive away the ghosts of winter and people running through the woods to awaken the garden fairies. The last frost date for the Midwest is around May 20th, according to the Old Farmer's Almanac.

## Someone you should know:

Joan Ruehrmund, our treasurer, is a member of an international organization called VOSH, Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity, that does eye exams & distributes free eyeglasses to the needy in the U.S. & other countries. If you have used glasses, sunglasses, lenses, or frames & would care to donate them, please contact Joan. Details about VOSH can be found at [www.vosh.org](http://www.vosh.org).

## In May, remember to:

start hardening off your seedlings before planting them outdoors; divide later-blooming perennials (& pot some up for the plant sale); mix compost in with your soil before you begin planting; review your garden plan to include companion plants (those that go together well); cool-weather plants such as pansies and ranunculus can be planted in pots or in seasonal beds.



## Last Month's Meeting

The April meeting was well attended. The program was given by Tim Thoeleck, Jr. of Garden Concepts. He showed before-and-after slides of garden planning and landscaping. His firm will do everything from just a landscape drawing for you to follow as finances allow, to having his crew come in to dig up, dig down, re-plant, lay patios, build walls, put in ponds all within a matter of weeks. Give him a call if you have any questions.

## 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.

## Did you know...

Scented geraniums comes in many scents including apple, apricot, coconut, lemon meringue, peach, orange, strawberry lime, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, chocolate mint, peppermint, attar of roses, old-fashioned roses, lemon rose and citrosa. Their colors also are varied: white, pale pink, lilac, orchid, scarlet, crimson, and magenta. (from *Growing & Using Herbs in the Midwest* by Rosemary Divock)

## 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:

'Central Florida was abloom with Japanese iris, scaveola, oleander, & cycads. Georgia greeted us with wild climbing roses along the highway. South Carolina was full of blue wildflowers which may be hyacinths. It was interesting that they consider bachelor button, chicory & oxeye daisy as invasive. Azaleas & dogwoods were in full bloom. Rice fields line the Savannah low country highways. Palmetto is the state tree & is everywhere, popcorn tree was in bloom as well as the thorny locust with its sweet aroma. Charleston plantations were lovely. Live oaks & lots of Spanish moss. They have the Cherokee rose (very large single blossom), blue-eyed grass, hydrangeas & an amazing tree, the Carolina silverbell, with white blossoms dangling from the barren branches. North Carolina's Biltmore estate is surprising. Plan to spend two days, one for the mansion & one for the grounds which had the tulip display at its peak. Tennessee's Smoky Mountains has a tree whose flower looks like a wisteria blossom but growing upright. I believe it's called Royal Paulownia. Most other trees were bare. Kentucky was a step back in time as the redbuds & crabapples again took center stage. Dandelions were blooming en masse. Mountain cedars lined the highways. We arrived home to appreciate our daffodils & hyacinths.'

**Dandelion Wine:** Put 6 pints of dandelion flowers in a muslin bag with the fine pared rind of 1 orange & 1 lemon; tie the bag & place in a pan with 8 pints of water, boil & simmer for 20 minutes. Squeeze the bag, then discard the petals. Pour the liquid into a bucket & stir in 3 lb. sugar, the juice of the orange & lemon & 1 cup of strong black tea. Mix a packet of wine yeast with a little warm water, then stir it into the bucket. Siphon into an airtight container & leave for 3 months until fermentation has finished. Siphon into bottles & store for several months before drinking.

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"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven; A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted." - Ecclesiastes

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

Esther Behnke, president & editor 498-4178

eabehnke@earthlink.net

Joan Ruehmund, treasurer 729-1383 dieterueh@aol.com

Jane Prentis, circulation 729-3230 jrprentis@msn.com

www.Glenview.NorthStarNet.org, then click on Community, then on Glenview Gardeners

