



The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 2 Issue 12

December 2004

December Meeting

Our annual holiday dinner will be held on Thursday, December 9, at 6:30 o'clock at Gusto Ristorante on Waukegan Road in the Carillon Square mall. There will be no regular meeting this month. We all look forward to this festive occasion. Spouses and guests are invited. Please call Jane (729-3230) or jrprentis@msn.com by the 7th to let her know you'll be attending so she can make the reservation. We hope to see all you there! Happy Holidays!



The November program was a craft night. Holly Jansen had the table all laid out with evergreen branches and decorations, glue guns and ribbons, wire cutters and wire. All we had to do is give free rein to our imaginations to create stunning swags and centerpieces for our upcoming holidays of Hanukkah and Christmas. Many thanks to Holly and to Joan Ruehrmund, our hostess for the evening.

New Officers

The following slate of officers was approved at the November meeting:

President - Esther Behnke

Editor - Esther Behnke

Publicity - Nancy Spears

Programs - Gloria Tralmer

Garden Walk - Holly Jansen

Circulation - Jane Prentis

Hospitality - Dee Kalchin

Also, the By-laws were finally

approved! Copies will be

distributed at the January

meeting. Please read through

them. THIS IS YOUR CLUB!



Through the Garden Gate

On one of the last warm days recently, my neighbor and I were outside cutting back dead foliage. He was marveling at the Angel's Trumpet that was still tall and healthy in my garden. Next year he will plant his seedlings directly in the ground, too. The leaves are (almost) all raked up, shredded and added to the compost bins. The lawn furniture is washed and covered, hoses and sprinklers drained and put away, bird bath scrubbed and filled, and the feeders filled with suet, black oilers, corn chips, niger seed, and Deluxe mix. And then the birds came! Nuthatches, black-capped chickadees, rose-breasted house finches, juncos, always the mourning doves and sparrows, woodpeckers, and those migrating south. Last month we gave thanks for our health, our homes, our families, our friends and neighbors, our country. This month we should include our little feathered friends who entertain us all winter. Bless their little hearts!

Interesting Statistics

For the math-challenged, some statistics really can be interesting. For instance, the web server stats for Glenview Gardeners are fascinating. In April, the start of our gardening season, we had 2,712 hits. They came from Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand, Japan, Lithuania, Iceland, Jordan, Israel, Cocos Islands, Czech Republic, Seychelles, France, Qatar, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Taiwan, Argentina, Philippines, Italy, our own government, and our military, besides from the U.S. In October, the start of winter, we had only 354, but these included Slovakia, United Kingdom, and Estonia. Our little website!!! Can you believe it?

Did you know....

Frankincense was one of the most highly prized substances of the ancient world. At one time the Arabians even had to pay an annual tribute to the Persian king Darius in frankincense. Revered as a holy perfume, this fragrant tree gum was most frequently burned as incense. The name 'frankincense' in itself can be traced to the 10th century France and means 'luxuriant incense'.

Oil of myrrh is distilled from the gum resin produced by the bark of the small Middle Eastern tree, *Commiphora myrrha*. A deep golden color with a sweet scent, it was one of the gifts of the three wise men, the others being gold and frankincense. It was much used in religious ceremonies, primarily for embalming, and was burned as incense. The early Greeks used it as an antiseptic and healing agent. It was used to disinfect wounds, treat skin problems, and to soothe digestive upsets. It can be used as an antiseptic gargle and is found in toothpastes.

*Silly gardener! Summer goes
And winter comes with pinching
toes,
When in the garden bare and
brown,
You must lay your barrow down!*

- R.L. Stevenson

The days leading up to the winter solstice on December 22nd are the shortest and darkest of the year. But the rich scents of our holiday herbs remind us of growing things, of sunshine and gentle rains. The evergreens, fragrant and bright, speak of life everlasting.

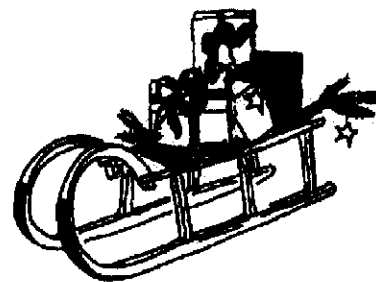
- *Growing and Using
Herbs in the Midwest* by
Rosemary Divock

In December, remember to:

- ✓ rake the leaves one last time and shred them when they are dry to use them as mulch on the beds;
- ✓ cage roses, raspberries and other plants that rabbits eat;
- ✓ if you haven't applied fertilizer to your lawn, now's the time;
- ✓ run your lawn mower dry and clean the housing, scraping off thick debris underneath the deck;
- ✓ clean, sharpen and oil hand tools to prevent rust;
- ✓ use linseed oil on the wood handles of tools;
- ✓ use cutting of shrubs in holiday decorations;
- ✓ water houseplants sparingly now;
- ✓ spray houseplants occasionally to clean them and to raise the humidity around them;
- ✓ most houseplants like a cooler room at night; have a good 10-15 degree difference in day-night temperatures;
- ✓ amaryllis and paperwhite bulbs can be enjoyed now throughout Christmas and provide an enjoyable scent.

- with help from Chicagoland Gardening,

Nov./Dec. 2004



Holiday Dinner Party

Put on your fancy duds and get ready for our annual holiday dinner party. It will be held on our regular meeting date, Thursday, December 9th, at 6:30pm, at Gusto Ristorante Italiano.

*I love snows, and all the forms
of the radiant frost;*

*I love waves and winds and
storms,*

Everything almost

*Which is nature's and may be
Untainted by man's misery.*

- Percy Bysshe Shelley

Culinary Uses of Herbs

Herbs add flavor to food without adding calories or fat. Most herbs can be used as seasoning for soups, stews, stuffing, sauces, vegetables, meat and fish and will transform an ordinary meal. Cut in mid-morning, placed between two sheets of paper towels and refrigerated, fresh herbs can be kept fresh for up to eight days. Use scissors to cut herbs. One teaspoon fresh herbs = 1/4 teaspoon dried herbs.

Dominant herbs are bay, curry, black pepper, hot pepper, sage, rosemary, cardamom, and mustard. Medium herbs are basil, cumin, dill, fennel, garlic, mint, thyme, marjoram, celery seed and leaves, tarragon, and savory. Delicate herbs are parsley, chives, chervil, and burnet.

Sources for Herbs

Milaeger's Gardens
4838 Douglas Ave.
Racine, WI 53402-2498

Wayside Gardens
1 Garden Lane
Hodges, SC 29695

Well-Sweep Herb Farm
317 Bethel Rd.
Port Murray, NJ 07865

Growing Houseplants

Plants that do well for north windows: aucuba, spider plant, dieffenbachia, false aralia, prayer plant (maranta), peperomia, schefflera, piggyback plant, and a number of bromeliads.

For south windows: chenille plant, pony tail plant, orange or lemon tree, echeveria, crown of thorns, shrimp plant, kalanchoe, myrtle, geranium, burro's tail, and jellybean plant.

For west windows: ceropegia (rosary vine), croton, coleus, jade plant, rubber plant, hoya (wax plant), polka dot, jasmine, avocado, and sansevieria (snake plant or mother-in-law's tongue).

For east windows: Norfolk Island pine, begonia, Christmas cactus and other jungle cacti, flame violet, gardenia, Boston fern, African violet, gloxinia, Bird of Paradise, and Cape Primrose.

For really dark corners: parlor palm and horsehead philodendron. Be especially careful not to overwater these and fertilize sparingly if at all.

For low-light areas: Chinese evergreen, aspidistra, grape ivy, dracena, pothos, nephthytis or arrowhead vine, sentry palm and Swiss cheese plant.

What's Blooming Table

Thanks to Gloria for bringing her 'last rose of summer'. Please bring in your treasured blooms, plants, or flowering branches for all of us to admire in January.



Questions, comments, payment of dues?

Esther Behnke, President &
Editor 498-4178 eabehnke@earthlink.net

Joan Ruehrmund, Treasurer
729-1383 dieterueh@aol.com

Jane Prentis, Circulation
jprentis@msn.com

Dee Kalchin, Hospitality
DoloresKalchin@aol.com

Holly Jansen, Garden Walk
hollyjane_7@hotmail.com

Nancy Spears - Publicity
nancy@spears.net

ggardeners@earthlink.net

www.glenview.NorthStarNet.org/
gardens

