



# The Spade & The Hoe

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February 2004

## February Meeting

To accommodate our crafty night, we will be meeting in the second floor room on February 12th. Holly Jansen and Marina Wynn will guide us in the hands-on making of garden birdhouses and other items to sell at our booth at the Street Sale in June. Plan to attend as this will be a very social meeting as well as a (dare I say it??) constructive one.

## Dues are Due!!!

Dues are now due for the year 2004. Please send your check for \$30 for singles or \$35 for couples (or bring it to the meeting) to Joan Ruehrmund, Treasurer, 2745 Karen Lane, Glenview 60025. For those who have not yet paid, this is the last newsletter you will receive.

## Financial Report

The published financial report for the year 2003 was approved and accepted at the January meeting. Thanks to Joan Ruehrmund, treasurer, for keeping our books.

The January meeting was well attended as we learned about the hazards in the flight paths of our migrating songbirds. Ms. Robbie Hunsinger of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors discussed the cooperation from the building managers downtown to turn off the bright lights that distract the poor birds, causing them to crash into the windows. If the crash did not kill them, the fall to the ground may, or the predator birds hovering nearby surely will. In our homes, putting up decals on our windows, or hanging things in front of them were excellent suggestions, as well as moving potted trees away from the windows during migration times.

The two migration periods are from mid April through May when they return north, and from late September through early November when they head south.

We are in the great Mississippi flyway from Canada to South America.



## Through the Garden Gate

I was given one of those molded seed ornaments in the shape of a bell, so Dan hung it in the crab tree near the other bird feeders. It took those blasted squirrels just three days to get it off the hook and haul it away to their nest! They kept knocking it down and we kept re-hanging it until they figured out how to spirit it away. We have SIX squirrels who come here to feed. Their nest is in another neighbor's tree. I really do not like those rodents.

Has anyone else seen the starlings? A few have come back very early (they're supposed to be in Kentucky!) and are dining at the Behnke Bar and Grill. They really are pretty in spite of their obnoxious habits. I still have not seen a black-capped chickadee although Len has reported one on his feeders.

And how about the deluge of garden catalogs? Enough already!

## Illegal Plants

According to an article in the Chicago Sun Times earlier this month, two enemies of Illinois forests were officially declared illegal by Governor Blagojevich. He banned the exotic plants kudzu and buckthorn, two pervasive plants that can choke native trees and plants in Illinois. The plants join other blacklisted exotics including Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose and purple loosestrife.



**Looking forward to** spring, in our mind's eye we see a garden full of daffodils. It brings to mind the children's nursery rhyme - 'Daffy-down-dilly has come up to town, In a yellow petticoat and a green gown.' For those who understand the language of colors, we must shed a tear for poor Daffodilla! for yellow is jealousy, and green is forsaken. But we will put such nonsense aside, and glory in her beauty, for she wears white and pink and orange now as well as her beautiful yellow!

All flowers appear to me as if coming from afar, like news for which one hopes against hope.

- André Dhôtel

## Be sure to remember our

**bird** friends and keep those feeders filled. If you have a water supply near by, they really depend on that, so plan on keeping it free of ice by either using a heater in the water or by pouring warm water into a bowl and setting it out every few days.

## National Garden Week

The gardeners throughout the country will be celebrating National Garden Week from June 8-12. Shall we ask our village board to pass a resolution declaring National Garden Week in Glenview on our behalf?

## Problems in the Garden?

Besides asking for advice from some of our members who are master gardeners (like Gloria Tralmer), you can also check out the site of the University of Illinois Extension's Hort Corner at [www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/hort](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/hort). Also, for rank beginners, The Gardening Launch Pad is an excellent place to start: [www.gardeninglaunchpad.com](http://www.gardeninglaunchpad.com). The Web Garden at Ohio State University has over 260,000 pages of information: [www.webgarden.osu.edu](http://www.webgarden.osu.edu). Finally check our North Carolina State University's Consumer Horticulture site at [www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/con](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/con)

## In February, remember to:

- ✓ take time to collect all the things you need for starting seeds and for transplanting;
- ✓ update your journal. List the things that you have bought - seeds, supplies, potting soil, tools, along with the source and cost that will help you when you need to replace items, buy more, or complain about an item;
- ✓ control any whiteflies on your houseplants. If infected plants are moved outdoors, they can infect your other plants;
- ✓ keep a supply of insecticidal soap to control insects on houseplants;
- ✓ trim your houseplants to shape them and to stimulate new growth;
- ✓ root these cuttings in water or moist sand to start new plants to give as gifts or for the Street Sale;
- ✓ make sure that you do not water houseplants too much. Better to err on the side of a bit too dry than too wet;
- ✓ if you see a white crust forming along the soil surface, or along the edge next to the pot rim, that is a warning sign that soluble salts are damaging your plant. Repot plants in fresh soil, or, leach the pot with plenty of fresh water in the sink or tub;
- ✓ as soon as new growth begins, fertilize the plants with Peters or Miracle-Gro at 1/2 the rate listed.

## Think you know everything?

1. Rubberbands last longer when refrigerated.
2. Peanuts are one of the ingredients in dynamite.
3. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
4. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
5. The shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
6. There are more chickens than people in the world.
7. Two-thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey.
8. The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."
9. On a Canadian two-dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament Building is an American flag.
10. All the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4:20.
11. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
12. "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in "mt."
13. All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
14. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
15. Winston Churchill was born in a ladies room during a dance.

I can't say I ever gave any of that much thought...



## February

Where the snow has melted, crocuses and other small bulbs may bloom by the end of the month, especially if they are located on the south side of the house. Paperwhite narcissi can still be grown now. The bulbs are in all the stores all winter. Set them on a bed of pea gravel in a shallow dish then add water up to the bottoms of the bulbs. Pot them in a cool place to make roots. Once the tops begin to sprout, move them to a bright, cool place until they flower. It only takes a few weeks.

Amaryllis bulbs are also available everywhere. If it is not potted, plant it in a pot slightly larger than the bulb, setting the bulb so that it is halfway above the pot rim. Use any potting soil, water and place it in a cool, bright place. In a few days, 1 or 2 shoots will begin to grow to 1 or 2 feet tall. The new buds will open soon into 6 to 8 inch blooms. Later the leaves will grow. Set the plant outside in the summer and bring it back inside in the fall for winter blooms.

-Month by Month Gardening in Illinois

## What's Blooming Table

We look forward to seeing some of your special house plants and hearing about your favorites! Remember to bring your plants carefully wrapped in newspaper to avoid cold shock.

### Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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

