



The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 2 Issue 1

January 2004

January Meeting

We'll kick off our programs for 2004 with one about our feathered friends. Robbie Hunsinger, of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, will present a very interesting audio/visual program on the methods of preventing bird collisions with our lighted windows. Plan to attend this informative program.

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. Though some of the presenters charge \$100 plus mileage, we really try to keep the costs down. Your dues go to provide quality programs.

Financial Report

Opening Balance, 1/1/03	\$362.26
Income	876.22
Expenses	<u>691.55</u>
Ending Balance	\$546.93

- Joan Ruehrmund, Treasurer



The Holiday Dinner was well attended with 21 members, spouses and friends enjoying good friends, good food, and good stories. A big Thank You to all who made our club strong this year, to all who worked at our various activities, and to all who make our club a wonderful, friendly garden club! Thanks go to Jane Prentis for organizing the dinner and for sending out The Spade & The Hoe each month; to Joan Ruehrmund for keeping track of our monies; to Dorothy Gilbertson for being hospitality coordinator; to Holly Jansen for being street sale coordinator; to Nancy Spears for the great publicity each month; to Gloria Tralmer and her team of Joan Ruehrmund, Charles and Marina Wynn for planning the programs for this year!

Through the Garden Gate

I hope everyone had a blessed holiday and that the new year will find us all in good health. It is always so wonderful to spend precious time with our family, friends, and neighbors.

Speaking of neighbors, mine has just increased the 'garden war' but purchasing another lighted deer (having two already) and one of those spiral trees that light up! He had come over and exclaimed how nice our outdoor decorations were.

Those after-Christmas sales must have been pretty good for decorations. But that's it for me; he wins. I have icicle lights, a garland on the porch railing, a wreath or two, sled, and baskets of greenery. That's enough!

Oh, I also have a small lighted and decorated tree in the back that all the neighbors can see from their kitchen windows.

This is really such a cheery time of year. Happy New Year to all our gardening members!

Trail Marker Trees

The tribe of Indians called the Pottawatomie lived right here and marked pathways through the prairie and woods.

Where the trail was difficult to follow, they would bend a sapling and tie its main stem to the ground to serve as a guide. As the sapling grew, it formed a peculiar horizontal trunk that directed the traveler on the path. As the tree matured, its tip again grew upward towards the sun. Oaks were used to direct people to villages while elms pointed towards water or marshes that contained plentiful wildlife. Examples of these trees are in Lake Bluff, Bannockburn, Waukegan, Highland Park, Zion, Riverwoods, Highwood, and Round Lake. Others were in Lake Villa, Gurnee, Waukegan, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Ravinia, Lake Bluff, Half Day, and Round Lake.

Make a Bookmark

To make a pressed-flower bookmark, cut an 8"x3" piece of thick paper, score, fold it in half, glue a loop of ribbon to the top and tails to the bottom on one half. Then glue the card together. Glue an attractive design of flower petals and leaves to the front, covering the whole front. Finally, cover the card with adhesive film.

Dues are Due!

Send your dues to Joan Ruehrmund, treasurer, or give them to her at the January meeting.

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.

Brighten your days with a basket of dried flowers.

Baskets lend themselves to dried flower arrangements. The yellows and oranges of helichrysums mixed with roses, stock and rose leaves or other large flat leaves will make an attractive balance and shape.

Poinsettia Plants

To achieve flowers next year, cut off the stems to 4" when the leaves have fallen. Let the compost dry off in a shady corner.

In early May, water and repot and soon shoots will appear. Feed regularly & prune to 4 or 5 strong stems. Then lighting must be carefully controlled. From the end of September on, the plant must be in total darkness for 14 hours each day. You must cover it with a black plastic bag. Do this for 8 weeks, then bring it into the light and resume watering.

- *The Complete Book of Houseplants*

In January, remember to:

- ✓ read through all the seed, bulb, and plant catalogs that are coming in to make your selections as you plan your garden for this summer;
- ✓ this is a good time to prune your trees and shrubs;
- ✓ cut off a few branches of some flowering shrubs and set them in a vase of water for forced blooming;
- ✓ remember to cut back on water for all your houseplants, but monitor them due to the drying effect of forced air heating;
- ✓ sharpen the shovels, spades, and hoes to make them easier to use; wipe them with an oily rag to prevent rust;
- ✓ keep a journal to record what worked out well last year, what needs transplanting this year, what you need to purchase;
- ✓ sow seeds that require a longer growing time, and especially those that are cool-weather plants as they can be planted outside in late April or May. Vegetables that can be planted outdoors that early include: snap beans, beets, cucumbers, lettuce, onion sets, parsley, peas, radishes, spinach, turnips, broccoli, and cauliflower. Herbs include: chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, horseradish, mint, oregano, rosemary, sage, tarragon, and thyme.

Care of Trees in Winter

Fertilizer can be applied when the ground is not frozen and the trees are dormant. Spread the fertilizer under the branches or bore holes under the drip lines of the trees and fill them with the appropriate amount of fertilizer. This will then be available to the trees as soon as roots begin to grow in late winter. You know that the roots of trees usually extend out to the drip lines. Rabbits, voles and deer are the most likely creatures to injure trees in winter, feeding on the thin bark of young trees. They can girdle the trees so that they die in spring as the sap cannot rise. Protect your young trees with collars around their bases up to about 4'-5' so that rabbits cannot stand on the snow and feed on them. Voles will live in mulch or leaves around the bases. Pull back the mulch so that the voles cannot tunnel under them.

Winter is also a good time to prune. Without leaves, the skeleton is easy to see. It is too early to prune fruit trees or small flowering trees.

If the winter is mild and dry, water trees exposed to sun and drying winds, and those under overhangs.

Trees in January

If you have big trees, examine them to make sure they are sound. If some are in jeopardy, plan to replace them. Trees have finite lives, you know. Big, old trees will live only so long and begin to deteriorate. In treeless areas, plant trees as soon as possible. They are excellent for keeping the house cooler in summer and for breaking those strong winter winds to keep the house warmer in winter. Besides, their leaves make great compost! First draw up a plan of your property on graph paper to scale. Locate trees so they will provide shade, screen out any undesirable view, provide background, and frame the house. Lastly, go through the tree lists to pick out the kinds that will fit your property. Then when spring comes, you will be able to approach nurseries confident that your plan is well-thought-out. After each severe storm, check the condition of your trees; look for broken branches, split limbs or other injuries; also look for rodent damage around the bottoms of young trees.

What's Blooming Table

We will resume the What's Blooming Table with the January meeting and look forward to seeing you bring some of your house plants and hearing about your favorites!

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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