



The Spade & The Hoe

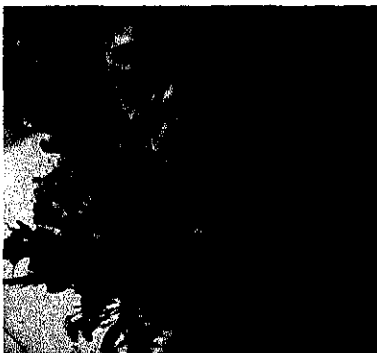
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June Meeting

The program for June 10th will be a planning session for our Glenview Street Sale booth later in the month. We will all meet at Gloria Tralmer's house at the regular time of 7:30 pm. (2435 Saranac Court, enter the Indian Ridge subdivision, which is 3 blocks south of Willow Rd., turn left on the first street which is Saranac Ln., go to the first stop sign which is Saranac Court and turn right. Her house is on the left side of the cul-de-sac.) Please bring 2-3 plants to share with our members. This is a great way to acquire new plants for your own gardens! I hope to see you then, especially the new members!

National Garden Week will be June 8-12, 2004. How will you be celebrating?



The May field trip was such a success. We went up to Craig Bergmann's Country Garden nursery in two cars, and met Diane Meyers there. After choosing our plants for purchase, we all had lunch at a very nice restaurant and even stopped at some garage sales on the way home.

A Street Sale Report from Holly Jansen

We need potted houseplants, herbs, perennials, and extra seedlings from each of you. Please pot them up in 4" pots or smaller, and put a plant marker in each one. I will bring extra markers to the next meeting if you don't have any. Pot them up soon, at least a week before the sale so they look nice. Ten windchimes are still out there. Bring them to the next meeting whether decorated or not. Anna Nowak is lending us her 10'x10' awning! Thanks, Anna. We still need some people to bring four chairs and two card tables. Any one volunteering?

Through the Garden Gate

Dan and I went to Lombard's Lilac Festival in early May. This was something that I have wanted to do for years, and finally did it! So many varieties of lilacs, some very fragrant, and interspersed with large beds of daffodils, different varieties of tulips, primulas, and scilla all blooming together nicely. We have some nice photos to show you. If you have never gone, please do next year. You won't be disappointed (unless the weather doesn't cooperate). Now that inside spring chores are done, I can spend all of my time outside, planting, dividing perennials to share with all of you, taking the house plants outside for their summer vacation. Many, many thanks to Brigitte for sharing her divia with me. I am forever grateful. I also helped the Glenview Senior Center plant a butterfly garden. I bought some things, dug up some of my things and others brought their plants. Check it out!

Further News About the Street Sale....

Any other donations of baskets, garden craft items, hand-made garden items, bird/garden related items/books will be graciously accepted on sale day, or dropped off at Holly's house the day before (2238 Central - 3rd house from the church at Shermer Rd.; please call first - 702-3102.

She still needs people to sign up to work shifts on that Saturday, June 26th. The sign-up sheet will be at the next meeting. Remember: many hands make for light work.....

Further adventures...

From Nancy Spears: We stumbled upon an iris sale in Colorado City in the front of the RV park in Greenhorn Valley. I bought too many beautiful ones, just couldn't help myself since they were all in bloom and absolutely gorgeous. I had just read the articles on iris in Garden Gate magazine so I was particularly informed on the subject. I even knew the term remontant! Prices were great! The fellow has a website worth visiting and ordering from: <http://ourworld.cs.com/gre enhornvaliris>.

From Nancy Spears on their road trip to Texas. She writes, "The highways of Oklahoma and Texas are filled with multiple species of wildflowers. Texas bluebonnets, blanketflower (gaillardia), prairie coreopsis, and Indian paintbrush are just some of them. I purchased a book on wildflowers to help me identify them. We saw a lovely Japanese Garden in Fort Worth, built in an old, deep quarry. It was such an effective use of the reclaimed area. On to Austin where we visited Lady Bird Johnson's Wild Flower Center. Fabulous gardens with great layout and so much information.

In San Antonio we visited their Botanic Gardens which were magnificent. Well-arranged walking trails displayed a wide variety of garden types. They had Conservatory towers that are built partially tucked below hills, yet the steel greenhouses rise high into the air to accomodate the tall palms. There were 4 or 5 of the towers. Today we saw Wildseed Farms in Fredricksburg. Acres and acres of flowers in bloom in preparation for seed gathering. What a sight. Now we're off to Arizona."

Many thanks to John Martin for volunteering his garden for our annual garden walk. More information on the Walk will be in next month's newsletter and flyers for the street sale.

Enjoy your plants. They are at their best now. Make note in your journal of any that are not performing well, and either transplant them to a different location or replace them with something else.

In June, remember to:

- ✓ plant the balance of your garden, including kitchen herbs;
- ✓ if it ever stops raining, keep an eye on your potted plants and water frequently;
- ✓ water new plants;
- ✓ enjoy your herb flowers in vinegars, salads, and as a garnish;
- ✓ spray, spray, spray lilies and other rabbit-desirable plants;
- ✓ fertilize pots with a weak solution every time you water them;
- ✓ fertilize beds including vegetable beds once a month; tomatoes are heavy feeders so fertilize them weekly;
- ✓ if you haven't done so yet, spread compost on vegetable, herb, and flower beds now.

"I have always thought a kitchen garden a more pleasant sight than the finest orangery...I love to see everything in perfection, and am more pleased to survey my rows of coleworts and cabbages, with a thousand nameless pot herbs springing up in their full fragrancly and verdure, than to see the tender plants of foreign countries."

- Joseph Addison

From *Old Wives' Lore for Gardeners*, plant lavender among the crocuses, and animals will leave the crocuses alone.

Street Sale Planning Ahead

Have you begun taking cuttings from your houseplants and rooting them in water or in a perlite compound? Good, then we will have plenty of houseplants to offer for sale. Last year, one of the most asked questions was if we had any potted houseplants for sale. And unfortunately, we didn't! So, get out your garden clippers, your scissors, and your sharp knives and get to work.

Suggestions, etc.

It has been suggested that we bring a few plants that we are dividing to each meeting for other members to help themselves. The best plants are those we've shared. Remember to bring baggies to put them in for the trips to their new homes.

A Garden Center near you...

According to Chicagoland Gardening magazine, the following centers are near us: The Chalet (Wilmette), Didier Farms (Prairie View), Geimer's (Long Grove), Red's (Northbrook), Jamaican Gardens (Morton Grove), Lurvey's (Des Plaines), Pasquesi's (Lake Bluff), and Pesche's (Des Plaines). In addition, check out: Craig Bergmann's (Winthrop Harbor), Goebbert's (Hampshire), The Growing Place (Naperville), The Natural Garden (St. Charles), Northwind (Springfield, WI), The Planter's Palette (Winfield), and Platt Hill (Bloomingdale).



Award Plants of the Year

The Perennial Plant Assn. has chosen as its Plant of the Year 2004 the Japanese Painted Fern (*Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum'). The American Hosta Growers Assn. has picked 'Sum and Substance'. And the open voting for tomatoes, after people sampled 24 heirloom varieties, was 'Big Rainbow' with 'Yellow Brandywine' in second place.

When talking with another neighbor, she told me that last summer someone had gone into her front garden late at night and sliced off, at ground level, all 7 of her large alliums! They had just begun blooming. And this year, only 3 have come back, the rest being killed by that cruel action. Gardeners, being the kind-hearted people we are, would generously offer some of our plants to others if asked. A pox on that midnight marauder!

What's Blooming Table

Thanks to Nancy Spears and to Bridgette Steinforth for their exhibits. Are they the only ones to bring exhibits? Have you nothing to show us??? Plan to bring your plants to the next meeting on June 10th!

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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

Want a face mask? Simmer 4 tbsp. each finely chopped mint & water for 5 minutes. Remove from heat & stir in 1 tbsp. honey, 2 tbsp. fine oatmeal & 3 tbsp. milk. Cool, then apply evenly over the face but not on the eyes. Rest for 30 minutes then rinse off.