



The Spade & The Hoe

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May 2004

May Meeting

The program for May will be a field trip to Craig Bergmann's Country Garden in Winthrop Harbor, to be held on Saturday, May 15th at 8:45am. We will gather at Gloria Tralmer's house, 2435 Saranac Court; enter the Indian Ridge subdivision (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. We will leave from there promptly at 9:00am. If you let her know to expect you, we will watch for you. Her number is 847-480-0848. 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 April meeting was so very interesting. Robert Milani of The Chalet brought two assistants with him, and they had a digital slide show of their landscape design projects in Wheeling, Lake Forest, Glencoe, and Kenilworth. The samples were elegant and parts of them could be broken down to our own-sized gardens (and budgets).

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

Isn't spring a lovely time of year? I am looking forward to our field trip to Craig Bergmann's Country Garden and I'm sure we will all find many lovely plants we just can't live without. Come, bring your wish lists, and enjoy a day out with friends. I've finished cleaning out all the garden beds and planted a few seeds. It really gladdens the heart to see Virginia bluebells, bleeding hearts, paperwhites, and scilla all blooming together nicely. And everything is coming up so grandly! Soon the peonies will strut their stuff, with poppies, irises, roses and God knows what else. Such an uplifting time of year. I must finish my other springtime chores, like washing windows, so I can devote loads to time just being in the garden, smelling the new fragrances, and seeing the wonderful colors of nature. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

Happy Spring to you!

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.....

Need Help?

For help in planning your landscape, check out the Botanic Garden's home page:

www.chicagobotanic.org, and click "Best Garden Plants". The search feature steers you to the best trees, evergreens, shrubs and perennials for our area. Also, check out the newest book by Bill Aldrich, publisher of *Chicagoland Gardening* that he wrote for this region: *Gardening Month by Month in Illinois*.



'Mid-May's eldest child,
The coming musk-rose, full of dewy
wine,
The murmurous haunt of flies on
summer eves.'

- John Keats

Ever wonder how to make

dandelion wine? Discard all the green parts from 6 pints of dandelion flowers and put the petals in a muslin bag with the finely pared rinds of 1 orange and 1 lemon. Secure the bag and place in a saucepan with 8 pints of water, bring to a boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Squeeze the bag to remove the liquid, then discard the petals.

Pour the liquid into a bucket and stir in 3 lb. sugar, the juice of the orange and the lemon, and 1 cup of strong black tea. Mix a packet of wine yeast with a little warm water and leave for 5 minutes, then stir it into the bucket. Cover and leave for 5 days, stirring daily.

Siphon into a demijohn, seal with an airlock and leave for about 3 months until fermentation has finished.

Siphon into bottles and store for several months before drinking.

- from *The Ladies Flower Garden*

Did you know that the patron saint of gardens and gardeners is St. Fiacre?

In **Edwardian times**, the common name for *Aquilegia vulgaris* was granny's bonnet, though now it is called columbine.

Glass marbles in a plain glass vase look very attractive and help to hold flowers stems in place.

In May, remember to:

- ✓ plant warm-season annuals, vines, herbs and vegetables after May 15th, our annual average frost date. If necessary wait until May 30th to set out cold-sensitive plants. Pinch back 1/3 of new plants to encourage bushy growth (but do not pinch vines);
- ✓ prune flowering trees and shrubs immediately after they bloom;
- ✓ fertilize roses when they leaf out with a mild fertilizer. When you see flower buds appear, then use full strength rose fertilizer.
- ✓ peonies should have been caged by now, as they seem to grow practically while you're watching;
- ✓ spray, spray, spray lilies and other rabbit-desirable plants as soon as they begin to come up, and often afterwards, too, to keep those rodents at bay;
- ✓ make sure your mower blade is sharp, and set at 2 - 2 1/2" for a proper cut;
- ✓ spread compost on vegetable, herb, and flower beds now;
- ✓ before you start to dig to plant a tree or large shrub, call J.U.L.I.E at 800-892-0123. Someone will be sent out to locate gas, water, telephone, cable and electric lines. Better safe than sorry, especially if your entire neighborhood finds itself without power or gas because of you.

Street Sale Planning Ahead

Now is the time to begin taking cuttings from your houseplants and rooting them in water or in a perlite compound. 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.

Questions, questions.....

What kind of articles do you like? Is there something that has never been mentioned in *The Spade & The Hoe* that you'd like to see? About trees, perhaps, or shrubs? Or specific perennials? Let me know and I'll see what I can do.

May Blooms

Many of the most spectacular shrubs are in bloom, such as, lilacs, rhododendrons, Koreanspice viburnums, and vanhoutte spirea. Some of the most fragrant are the Koreanspice viburnums, which are outstanding now. As you walk around the neighborhood, take note of how plants flower, whether they blend in with one another and other plants blooming at the same time. Record your notes in a journal, put the year at the top of the page, then the date of your observation. Refer to this book when you are making plans for your own garden. Write the names of your plants in this book, too, where they came from, and where you planted them. If you ever need to replace one of a grouping, you will know how important this is.

-Month-by-Month Gardening in Illinois



Want to buy compost? A source used by the Tralmers and the Meyers is DK Organics, LLC, 725 N. Skokie Hwy., Lake Bluff, 60044, 847-234-5499. They deliver a minimum of 3 cu.yd. of any material they handle: compost, tippin, leaf mulch, superfine, and blended soil, and also sell these items in bags. Different sized screens produce each mix. The superfine is more expensive, the leaf mulch is the good stuff Diane and Gloria used.

Open Days Conservancy

On Sunday, July 18th, a Glenview garden will be open to the public. The Windmill, the Hart estate, at 2660 Pflingsten Road will be open from 10 - 4 pm.

Next you can go to Craig Bergmann's at 1924 Lake Avenue in Wilmette, at the corner of Columbus Street. Entry is at the rear of the property by the garage. He has a 60-year-old magnolia plus such lush foliage that the house is totally obscured from the street.

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.

Have you heard of a quarterly magazine called The Weeder's Reader? It is available online from www.greenprints.com and costs \$19.97 for a limited time.