



The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 2 Issue 11

November 2004

November Meeting

The November 11th meeting will be held at 7:30p.m. at the home of Joan Ruehrman, 2745 Karen Lane. This will be a holiday workshop and we will be making Chanukah or Christmas centerpieces or door swags. The cost of materials is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Holly Jansen will be providing the expertise in choosing and assembling your masterpiece. Please call Holly (729-7729) to let her know you'll be attending and which holiday decoration you prefer making. This promises to be another fun-filled and social evening!

The October program by Dan and Esther Behnke was very well-attended with over ten visitors and many of our own members. The digital slide program on *The Gardens Italy* was enjoyed by everyone, and many thanks to Dan for his time-consuming work in assembling the program and to Joan Ruehrmund, our hostess for the evening.

Nominating Committee Report

The Committee has presented the following slate of officers:

President - Esther Behnke
Editor - Esther Behnke
Publicity - Nancy Spears
Programs - Gloria Tralmer
Garden Walk - Holly Jansen
Circulation - Jane Prentis
Hospitality - Dee Kalchin

Nominations will be open from the floor, and the vote will be taken. Remember, this is YOUR club. Please take an active part in its operation.



Through the Garden Gate

Some of you had the pleasure of meeting my neighbor at the October meeting. He is still envious of the Angel's Trumpets still blooming in my garden. Some things just don't want to die down, like the alyssum, feverfew, Autumn Joy sedum, and of course, the stars of the season, the chrysanthemums. My sugar maple in the front is so beautiful this year. It's leaves have not been so orange before! What a sight! And I just love to see them cover the ground, knowing full well that Dan & I will have to get out there to shred them into a mulch. Isn't it wonderful how the cycle of life always helps the next generation of growing things? Much like parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents have so much to offer the succeeding generations. Thanksgiving will be upon us later this month. We have much to be thankful for: our health, our homes, our families, our friends and neighbors, our country. May God bless us all. Happy Thanksgiving to you!

By-Laws

We really do have to vote on the by-laws. The vote will be taken at the November (very brief) meeting before the crafts and copies will be passed out then.

Our Feather Friends

Have you noticed that the tiny juncos are back from their summer sojourn in Canada? These delightful birds have a white breast and a slate gray head, back and wings. They always remind me of Dominican monks whose dress is the same. And I'm happy to say that I've had some black-capped chickadees at my black oilers feeder, blue jays at the corn feeder, purple house sparrows at every feeder, and woodpeckers at the suet feeder (with insects and berries embedded in the suet). We love to watch them flit around. Sometimes there are 30-45 birds flying around the feeders, looking for an empty perch. They do brighten up the dreary days of fall and winter.



Over the River and Through the Woods to Joan

Ruehrmund's house we go: from the intersection of Central and Washington streets, go south one block to Karen Lane, turn west to 2745. She's on the south side of the cul-de-sac. Let's have a big turnout for this craft event!

The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies.

- Gertrude Jekyll

Winter Care for Roses

To remain healthy throughout the winter, roses need a little bit of special care now. First off, if you had a problem with black spot this summer, pick up all the dead leaves around the base of the rose and spread lime sulfur. This will prevent its return next year. Some time in late November or early December, pile up soil or compost about a foot high (dig the soil from another part of the garden!) around the stem. If you are planting or transplanting roses, be sure to dig the hole deep enough so the graft lies 2-3 inches below soil level. Water deeply and often. Then mound as above. Don't use rose cones. They tend to do more harm than good.

In November, remember to:

- ✓ rake the leaves off the lawn as they can smother the grass over winter;
- ✓ shred leaves when they are dry and use them as mulch on the beds;
- ✓ plant spring-blooming bulbs now, three times deeper than the bulb is wide, and water thoroughly;
- ✓ cover the bulbs with a layer of chicken wire or hardware cloth, if squirrels are a problem, before covering with the soil and mulch;
- ✓ protect tender roses when the temperature is regularly 20 degrees or colder;
- ✓ prune most rose bushes to knee height; shrub roses can be taller;
- ✓ put out seed feeders and suet feeders for the birds to help them survive the cold blasts of winter;
- ✓ begin a compost pile or add to one already going;
- ✓ fertilize only those houseplants that bloom in the winter;
- ✓ 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.

- with help from Garden Talk, Fall 2004



Holiday Dinner Party

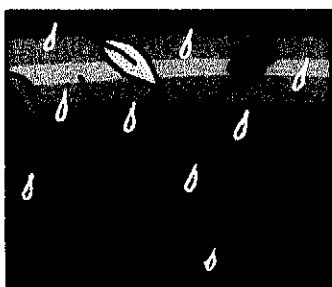
Put on your fancy duds and get ready for our annual holiday dinner party. It will be held on our regular meeting date, Thursday, December 9th, at 6:30pm, at Gusto Ristorante Italiano. Jane Prentis is making the arrangements again (thank you, Jane), so be sure to hold open that date!

Do you have cats? The list of houseplants toxic to them has: castor bean, wisteria, rhubarb, lily-of-the-valley, dieffenbachia, poinsettia, amaryllis, nicotiana (and tobacco), philodendron, jade plant, wandering jew, spider plant, aloe, Swedish ivy, rubber plant and asparagus fern. Also azalea, caladium, clivia, pothos, and crown of thorns. Things cats can eat are catnip, parsley, dwarf zinnia, dwarf marigold, and their old favorite, Kentucky bluegrass.

- The Gardener's Companion
by Roberta M. Coughlin

Banana Skins

Laid just below the surface of the soil, banana skins have long been known to be very good for roses and tomatoes. Scientists have now found that they are able to provide, as they rot quickly, a considerable quantity of calcium, magnesium, sulfur, silica, phosphates, and sodium.



Ever wonder where your house plants came from?

Flowering maple - South America
zebra plant - Brazil
Coleus - Java
Chinese evergreen - Philippines
Aloe - Mediterranean
Norfolk Island pine - Norfolk Island, near New Zealand
Spider plant - South Africa
Grape ivy - Mexico to S. America
Jade tree - Africa
Dieffenbachia - South America
Dracaena - Africa
Poinsettia - Mexico
Fuchsia - South America
Hoya - China, Australia
Polka dot plant - Madagascar
Peperomia - South Africa
Philodendron - South Africa
Swedish ivy - Australia
African violet - East Africa
Sansevieria (mother-in-law's tongue) - Africa
Schefflera - Australia
Christmas cactus - Brazil
Pothos - Solomon Islands
Wandering jew - South America
Fatsia - Japan
Ivy - Europe
Shrimp plant - Mexico
Lithops (living stones) - S. Africa
Pelargonium - South Africa
Aluminum plant - Vietnam
Burro's tail - mountains of the tropics
Silver dollar plant - Africa
Sentry palm - Lord Howe Island, Australia
Now you know!

Milk as Fertilizer

Before throwing away the empty carton of milk, fill it with water and shake well. The contents then make a very mild liquid manure for houseplants and in the garden, too.

What's Blooming Table

Thanks to Dolores, Gloria and Holly for your plants and tomatoes. Please bring in your treasured blooms, plants, or flowering branches for all of us to admire.



Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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

Pour a bit of beer onto your hollyhocks and watch them grow much taller than those that did not receive any beer. It is the yeast that does the trick.