



# The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 2 Issue 10

October 2004

## October Meeting

The meeting will be held on October 14th at 7:15 p.m. in Room 102 at the Park Center. It will be a digital slide presentation on *The Gardens of Italy* given by Esther and Dan Behnke. Gardens featured will be the Boboli Gardens in Florence, Borghese Gardens in Rome, the Villa Cimbrone and Villa Ruffolo in Ravello, Villa Lante, Villa d'Este in Tivoli, and the Public Gardens in Venice.



At the September meeting, Wally Schmidtke, who is Garden Center Manager at Pesche's, stressed the need to water twice weekly as we go into fall. When planting mums it is important to open the root ball so the plants can set firm roots into the soil before it freezes. Mulch over the winter to prevent heaving of the plants. Clean up all infested rose leaves and petals and treat the plants with Neem Oil early next spring to prevent blackspot. Use Liquid Fence to deter our large crop of rabbits. Many, many thanks to Holly Jansen for standing in for me while I was out of the country.

### Plants that Attract Birds

Hummingbirds like cannas, petunias, impatiens, coral bells, monardas, fuchsias, gladioli and trumpet vines. Robins like crabapples, dogwoods, viburnams, and mountain ashes. Orioles, thrushes and warblers like grapes, honeysuckles, winterberries, raspberries, pine seeds, spruce seeds, blueberries, blackberries, bittersweet vines, sunflowers, dogwoods, viburnams, and cut up fruit with plenty of dripping water and bird baths.

*Bread feeds the body indeed, but flowers feed also the soul.*

- The Koran

## Through the Garden Gate

I just can't get over how well the Angel's Trumpets are blooming! The ones that are growing in my beds are so much larger than those in the pots so my neighbor and I are not going to do the pots next year. The red lobelia are in full flower and so stunning. I had to bring in the houseplants earlier than usual because of our Italian trip but they didn't seem to mind too much. I have been picking the broad beans and bush beans regularly as well as tomatoes. I have to beat the chipmunks to the tomatoes though. However, they don't seem to like basil, chives, oregano, eggplants and cucumbers. My neighbor offered to water my gardens and in return I suggested he pick the beans and tomatoes for his own table but he declined as my younger daughter would be by to water some very delicate houseplants and she should have them, he said. I feel so fortunate to have a really good neighbor. Too often one gets stuck with the 'neighbor from hell'.

## Invasive Plants

The barberry is one of the most invasive shrubs in our area. It seems so innocuous, but its berries are spread far and wide by birds, and it has done much damage in shading out native wildflowers. Also the honeysuckle vine and the porcelain berry vine. Among other invasive plants are the burning bush (*euonymus alatus*), creeping jenny (*lysimachia nummularia* - which I have!), goutweed also called bishop's weed (*aegopodium podagraria* - which I had gotten in some purchased plant and which took me 5 whole years to get rid of), Japanese barberry (*berberis thunbergii*), and yellow flag iris (*iris pseudacorus*). Also, common orange daylily (*hemerocallis fulva*), flame grass (*miscanthus sinensis purpureus*), privet, white poplar, creeping Charlie also called ground ivy (*glechoma hederacea*) and Norway maple. The Botanic Garden fears that these invasives, like purple loosestrife, buckthorn, and kudzu, will escape, overwhelm and eliminate native plant species. For more information, see [www.chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/invasive\\_chicago.html](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/invasive_chicago.html).

If you remove the seed heads of Dame's Rocket it will not spread. Finally, if you really love your burning bush, you can plant a non-invasive variety called 'Compacta', a much shorter cultivar that is not at all invasive.

*A garden that one makes oneself becomes associated with one's personal history and that of one's friends, interwoven with one's tastes, preferences, and character, and constitutes a sort of unwritten, but withal manifest, autobiography. Show me your garden, provided that it be your own, and I will tell you what you are like.*

- Alfred Austin

## Survey Results

About half of our members let me know by e-mail, phone calls, and face-to-face contact that they would like programs with outside speakers to be at the Park Center and some that don't have speakers (for instance, our craft workshops) to be at members' homes. Also, we have field trips and garden walks which are at neither place. So, this ties in nicely with our programs for the rest of the year: October at the Center, Nov. at Joan's house and December at a restaurant. Thanks to all who responded!

## In October, 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;
- ✓ divide peonies and daylilies now through October;
- ✓ dig up summer bulbs, such as dahlias, cannas, etc., once a frost has blackened the foliage;
- ✓ water shrubs, trees, and new plantings during dry spells;
- ✓ consider growing cannas in a large pot next year as they make many tubers over the summer;
- ✓ water tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables since they cannot produce much if stressed by drought;
- ✓ pick vegetables regularly in order to have continuing production;
- ✓ pick and discard leaves that have diseased spots, such as roses, crabapples and peonies;
- ✓ begin a compost pile or add to one already going.

- with help from Chicagoland Gardening,

September/October 2004

## Autumn

Contrary to the old legend, Jack Frost does not paint the leaves with bright colors. Trees protect themselves against the rigors of winter by cutting back the flow of water to the leaves to conserve moisture and energy. This lack of water causes the chlorophyll to withdraw from the leaves, thus displaying the leaves 'real' colors. So, chop up the leaves and use them as a mulch around the base of tender plants or as a blanket to cover the garden. The leaves will break down naturally, adding nutrients back to the soil. They can also be ground up and added to the compost.

As the weather gets progressively colder in October, a week or two of Indian summer may occur. Use this time to clean the garden and get it ready for ol' man winter.

- Growing and Using Herbs in the Midwest

## Halloween Lore

Nine herbs supposedly ward off evil spirits and spells of witches: betony, chamomile, fennel, plantain, nettle, thyme, watercress, wormwood, and wild apple. Keep them in the house and you'll be safe!

Orange and gold calendulas, marigolds, and chrysanthemums were also considered protective plants. Their colors represent the fires which many careful witches would rather avoid.

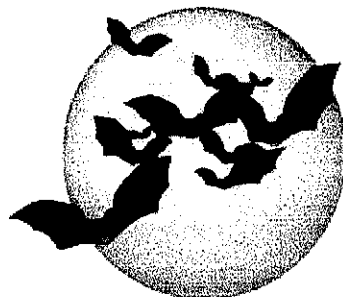


## Prairie plants are good choices

for landscaping in sunny areas. They are perennial, deep-rooted, and drought-resistant. Some are asclepias (butterfly weed), liatris (blazingstar), coneflowers, asters, brown-eyed Susans, Canada anemones, shooting stars, prairie phlox, gentians Turk's-cap lilies, monardas, lobelias, mountain mints, stiff goldenrods and tall goldenrods, prairie spiderworts, culver's-roots, prairie violets, bird's-foot violets, blue violets, and arrow-leaved violets. Tall grasses are Indian grass, prairie cord grass for wet areas, big bluestem, wild rye, and switch grass while shorter grasses are little bluestem, porcupine grass, prairie dropseed, sideoats grama and panic grass. Some shrubs are New Jersey Tea and leadplant.

## Fall Bouquet

A country vase full of brilliant berries and rose hips echoes the tangled beauty of the autumn hedgerow. You can use any suitable materials such as crab apples, cotoneaster berries, holly berries, rose hips, and bittersweet berries. Giant poppy seed heads develop a beautiful greyish bloom and look wonderful in the informal vase or basket. To save the seeds for next year, hold the heads upside down in a jar or bag and shake to free the seeds.



## What's Blooming Table

Remember, we have a What's Blooming table set up.

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.

When the world wearies,  
and society ceases to satisfy,  
there is always the garden.

- Minnie Aumonier