

The Spade & The Hoe ©

Volume 3 Issue 8

August 2005

The August Meeting will be held on August 11th at the Park Center at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Mark Spreyer, director of Stillman Nature Center in Barrington, who will talk on Who's Who of Owls. He will be bringing some of his owls so we can get a close-up look at these beautiful birds. Bring your cameras!

What is a Lily?

The onion belongs to this family, but the calla lily is related to the Skunk Cabbage! Real lilies include tiger lily, turk's-cap lily, royal lily, day-lily, and plantain-lily (hosta). Also desert-candle, camass, chives, garlic, shallots, blue dicks (California hyacinth), Mariposa lilies, autumn crocus, Glory-of-the-Snow, agapanthus, and galtonia (summer hyacinth). Wild cousins of the lilies are asparagus, Solomon's seals, false Solomon's seals, yuccas, trilliums, bellwort, and dog's-tooth violets.

-The Flower Family Album by Helen Field Fischer and Gretchen Marshbarger

The July Garden walk was a huge success. Not only did we have many people visit the gardens, but sales of plants and other items was brisk. Plus, we had full-page coverage in both the Glenview Journal and the Glenview Announcements! Many, many thanks go to Holly Jansen for her work in coordinating this show, to Nancy Spears for getting us all that wonderful publicity, to Brigitte Steinforth, Patty Reed, and Nancy Spears for opening your gardens, and finally to Jackie & Shelly Kimel, Jane Prentis, and Esther Behnke for providing wonderful treats. You all are so great!

Statistics

In the month of June, 426 people accessed our website, looking at our 5 pages. The busiest days and times are Saturdays at 4 PM first and then 2 PM, then Tuesdays. Most were from .nets, .orgs, then .coms and Toronto, Canada, Australia and Denmark were the sources of the most hits. I find this amazing! They must Google "gardens" and we are among hits that are produced.

Through the Garden Gate

Such strange weather we're having. It got so hot so quickly that my edible pod peas burnt out and I was able to harvest only a small handful of peapods. The Italian broad beans are doing very well and I have to harvest every other day! I am freezing them so I will have great beans for stews, soups, and side dishes in the winter. I am also cooking some up often as they are so sweet to eat. My tomatoes are coming in nicely. One of the benefits of this strange weather is that there are few Japanese Beetles on my

roses. The roses are blooming so well. A new one, Ingrid Bergman, is covered with deep red flowers and Aromatherapy has such fragrant blossoms. Sundance and First Prize are settling in nicely and Cabana keeps blooming up a storm! I am trying to keep up with garden maintenance, but so much of my time is taken up with watering the beds. I've let the grass go as it will come back eventually, but the flowers and vegetables need a steady amount of water to produce at their best. Oh well, maybe some day the drought will be eliminated.

The Flower Family—Amaryllis

Members of this family are tuberoses, hardy amaryllis, houseplant amaryllis, Peruvian daffodils, narcissi and daffodils, zephyr-lilies, gold-eye grasses, snowdrops, agaves (century plants), crinum, Guernsey-lilies, amazon-lilies, snowflakes (leucojum), and Jacobean-lilies. (I was surprised to read that my little snowdrops are part of this family.)

- Irises

Irises are not lilies, even though they're called "the lilies of France". Among their members are bearded irises, Siberian and Japanese irises, blue flag irises, crested irises, dwarf irises, gladioli, freesias, blue-eyed grasses, crocuses and blackberry irises.

Guest Columnist—Brigitte Steinforth

Rabbits! Those little bunnies are adorable, but why do they have to eat the little plants that I have been raising all winter under lights?

There are sprays that work, such as, Shot Gun (from Home Depot), Liquid Fence (from Ace Hardware), and Repellex (from The Chalet). They are supposed to last for 3 months and work by taste and smell, and deter both rabbits and deer. If you spray early in spring, rabbits hopefully will go elsewhere (where?). However, as the plants grow, more spraying might be needed. (I wear rubber gloves for protection!) I also repeat spraying the special roses, etc. before winter sets in. Instead of all this spraying, I am trying to learn which plants they don't eat. Here is my list: any fuzzy or smelly plant like beebalm, oregano, chives, lamb's ears, sages, plus feverfew, cleome, nicotiana, nasturtium, mums, ferns, coneflowers, daylilies, hydrangeas, thick-leaved hostas, dahlias, sundrops, bleeding hearts, irises, ladies' mantles, primulas, astilbes, sedums, snapdragons, begonias, impatiens. Also, if you plant tulips together with alliums even the squirrels don't like this. Many of the plants listed are doing quite well in my garden and need dividing. So come on over in September and I will share.

Happy Gardening!

In August, remember to:

- check for grubs in your lawn;
- mow your lawn 2 1/2 to 3" high in hot weather;
- keep after those weeds;
- do not fertilize roses after mid-August

- divide irises and cut back the leaves about 1/3. Plant just below the soil.
- spray plants with anti-rodent products if rabbits and deer are a problem;
- cut back straggly annuals to promote new growth;
- take cuttings of coleus, impatiens, wax begonias, rosemary, thyme and oregano to make a winter window garden;
- order spring flowering bulbs;
- sow radish, lettuce, spinach and beet crops
- continue to pick off cucumber beetles on cucumbers, gourds, and squashes.

-

with help from Chicagoland Gardening, July/August 2005

The Flower Family– Mulberries, Nettles and Loosestrifes

These families have little to offer our gardens but three of their members are infamous. Hemp or marijuana from which the drug hashish is derived. Its seeds are loved by wild and tame birds and it produces a useful fiber. Stinging nettle and artillery plant are members of the nettle family. Purple loosestrife has gotten a black eye because of its habit of clogging streams and blocking out native plants. Members of this family are cuphea firefly which lays on the ground, cuphea ignea cigar-flower, and crape myrtle which is grown in southern Illinois.

-from The Flower Family Album by Helen Field Fischer

What's Blooming Table

Please bring in your treasured plants, blooms, or flowering branches for all of us to admire at the August meeting.

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

Esther Behnke, President & Editor 498-4178
eabehnke@earthlink.net

Joan Ruehrmund, Treasurer
 729-1383
diiterrueh@aol.com

Jane Prentis, Circulation
jrprentis@msn.com

Dee Kalchin, Hospitality
DoloresKalchin@aol.com

Holly Jansen, Garden Walk Co-ordinator
hollyjane_7@hotmail.com

Nancy Spears, Publicity
nancy@spears.net

Gloria Tralmer, Programs
grammygogi@aol.com

ggardeners@earthlink.net

[http://NorthStarNet.org/glenview gardeners/community/Glenview Gardeners](http://NorthStarNet.org/glenview_gardeners/community/Glenview_Gardeners)

Notice:

Gloria Tralmer will be handing out bulb ordering forms at the August meeting. She will place our order in early September for October deliver for our meeting date distribution. Plan to attend the August meeting and pick up your bulb ordering form for spring blooming bulbs!

Notice #2:

Brigitte Steinforth has notified us that she will be digging up some of her plants and will share them with members. ***You must come to her home to pick them up!*** Perennials should be transplanted well before September 15th. The plants she is giving away are: hostas, some unusual daylilies, Stella d'Oro daylilies, lamb's ears, and some other. Contact her 724-9462 if you want any of these plants. It is a great way to increase your garden through the generosity of our member. Be sure to call her early on as the supply of plants is limited, obviously, and she will need to arrange a time for you to come to her garden. What a bargain!