

# The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 3 Issue 2

February 2005

## February Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on February 10th at 7:30 P.M. at the Park Center, on the second floor in room 205. The speaker will be Mike Schmechtig of Schmechtig Landscaping and he will show his slides on landscape lighting, small gardens and front gardens for curb appeal. Mark your calendars for this great program.

*DUES ARE DUE!* Please bring your check for \$30 (or \$35 if you are a couple) payable to Glenview Gardeners and give it to Joan Ruehrmund, our treasurer.

**The January meeting** was an especially interesting one. Tammy Devine of Wild Birds Unlimited had many handouts and gave a talk that elicited so many questions and comments. Plus, she brought a number of door prizes. Thanks go to Marina Wynn for her extravagant display of food and drink. While she couldn't stay for the program, her husband Charles packed up the leftovers. Thanks, Marina!

*Do you know who John Chapman was? Clue: he lived around 1803. Clue: he was also known as Johnny Appleseed. Now for the hard question: what exactly was he doing? No, he was not planting seeds so settlers and pioneers could eat fresh fruit or make apple pies or sauce. Those trees come from grafted stock. He planted wild apple seedlings. The small, hard, sour fruits of these trees were planted so the afore-mentioned people could make hard cider! This was especially welcomed during the long, cold winters of the Midwest. He had nurseries in Ohio and Indiana from which he supplied the people in Illinois.*

## Through the Garden Gate

In case you noticed a new and different look to The Spade & The Hoe, I am using a new program, Microsoft Publisher. New software (and hardware) take some getting used to but I am learning as I go.

My neighbor got a computer for Christmas, his first. As he is 83, he is looking to me to 'set it up and show me how to use it'. I discovered he and his wife will use it solely (or mainly) to write e-mails to their relatives in Italy. This will take some doing, as I foresee hours away from my own activities. But, hey, that's what neighbors are for, right?

I have a news flash! We have a new bird hanging around our suet feeder—a red-bellied woodpecker! Larger than the small Downy woodpeckers we have, he (she?) also loves the oilers and is not shy about preempting a spot on either feeder.

Although many people complain about the snow, we gardeners know the benefits: insulation for the garden beds, a source of water for all the plants when it melts, and, it looks so beautiful! Enjoy the beauty of the winter season!

***DUES ARE DUE....***

*Please remember to bring or send your dues to our treasurer. Your dues go to provide us with the many quality programs that are provided all year long. If your dues are not paid by March 1st, you will be dropped from membership.*

**From Holly Jansen** comes a web site for winter landscape: [landscaping.about.com/cs/winterlandscaping](http://landscaping.about.com/cs/winterlandscaping). They are promoting winterberry holly (*ilex verticillata*) as it holds its berries all winter to feed the birds. It loves wet areas, acidic soil, partial shade or full sun, and can grow anywhere from 3' to 15' tall, and 3' or so wide. As the plant is dioecious, which means it needs a boy plant nearby for the girl plant to produce its beautiful berries. It also is deciduous which means it sheds its leaves in the fall so the berries really stand out. The berries attract songbirds, small mammals, eastern bluebirds, wild turkeys, game birds, and white-tailed deer. Also known as 'fever bush', American Indians used winterberry to reduce fever, among other medicinal uses they had for this remarkable plant.

**Want to learn about some**

terribly invasive plants in your garden or at your favorite nursery? Try these websites:

[www.chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/invasive\\_chicago.html](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/invasive_chicago.html); the Illinois Native Plant Society at [www.ill-inps.org/index\\_page0005.htm](http://www.ill-inps.org/index_page0005.htm); the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/ExoticSpecies/photogallery.htm>; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/); the U.S. government at [www.invasivespecies.gov/](http://www.invasivespecies.gov/); and the National Wildlife Federation at [www.eNature.com](http://www.eNature.com)

*Love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies, but always grows and grows to an enduring and ever-increasing source of happiness...*

*Each new step becomes a little surer, and each new grasp a little firmer, till, little by little, comes the power of intelligent combination, the nearest thing we know to the mighty force of creation.*

*- Gertrude Jekyll, from Everything I Know I Learned in My Garden by Emilie Barnes*

**In February, remember to:**

- fertilize houseplants once a month with a 20-20-20 fertilizer;
- Give them a bath in the sink or a shower to remove dust and mites;
- do not try to knock ice off branches of shrubs;

- use kitty litter, sawdust, sand, or calcium or potassium chloride in small amounts;
  - once the snow thaws, water the areas exposed to salt thoroughly to leach the salt away from plant roots;
  - If you have rabbits, deer or voles, protect your young trees, shrubs, roses, and berry canes by wrapping them in chicken wire or hardware cloth.
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- with help from Chicagoland Gardening, January/February 2005

### *Winter Time*

Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dreams.

- Barbara Winkler

**For some uncommon annuals**, try these native plants: *Clarkia unguiculata* (farewell-to-spring), *dyssodia tenuiloba* (golden-fleece), *verbena encelioides* (butter daily, which was grown at Monticello), *linaria maroccana* (toadflax, unlike its invasive cousin, *L. vulgaris* (butter and eggs)).

Seeds available from J.L. Hudson, Seedsman  
PO Box 1058  
Redwood City, CA 94064

### **What's Blooming Table**

Please bring in your treasured plants, blooms, or flowering branches for all of us to admire in February.

### **Questions, comments, payment of dues?**

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[www.glenview.NorthStarNet.org/gardens](http://www.glenview.NorthStarNet.org/gardens)

### **Herbs**

Cloves are flower buds of the clove tree and are produced in Zanzibar! Cloves are used as a spice and in aromatherapy. Clove oil was a protection against bubonic plague. Modern evidence finds that clove oil does have important medical value as one of the most effective antiseptics known and is used for treating colds and flu infections, in mouthwashes and digestive tonics. It provides a welcome numbness if applied topically for sore gums and toothaches.

*"If odours may worke satisfaction, they are so soveraigne in plants and so comfortable that no confection of the apothecaries can equall their excellent Vertue."*

- John Gerard, The Herball, 1597

Cinnamon has been prized since ancient times. The Queen of Sheba gave some to King Solomon and it was one of the spices used to make holy ointment for the Tabernacle. The legendary phoenix was said to construct its magic pyre from cinnamon and myrrh.

The fragrant bark is harvested for general use, but essential oil is distilled from the leaves and used to perfume soaps, toothpastes, and other things. Medicinally, it is an effective remedy for flu, nausea, fatigue and depression. Its warm oil makes a soothing rub for rheumatism. It's also used as an astringent.