

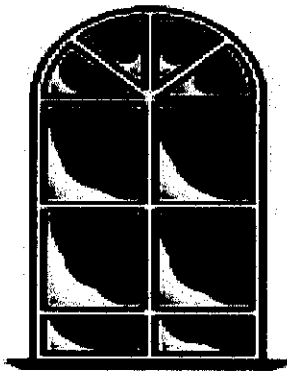
The Spade & The Hoe

Volume 3 Issue 1

January 2005

January Meeting

Our first meeting of the new year will be held on January 13th at 7:30 P.M. at the Park Center, on the second floor in room 205. The speaker will be Tammy Devine of Wild Birds Unlimited in Carillon Square. She will talk about Winter Birds in the Garden. Tammy will be bringing display items, handouts, and door prizes, so plan to be there for what promises to be a 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 December Holiday Dinner was an especially delightful time. The members and spouses were decked out in their finest holiday sweaters and jewelry. The dinners were delicious but it was the companionship of our members that really was the most wonderful part of it all. So much so, that we stayed on talking long after the wait staff gave up on us. Our president expressed her thanks for the support of Dolores Gilbertson, Jane Prentis, Nancy Spears, Holly Jansen, Joan Ruehrmund and Gloria Tralmer for their work of the past year. We wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah and a Blessed Christmas!

Now is the time to sit back with a cup of hot tea, in a cozy chair in front of the fire, and slowly read through the stack of garden catalogs you received beginning in the middle of December. As you read through them, remember to check your journal that you kept (you did keep one, right?) so as to avoid the mistakes in ordering things that don't like living in our zone 5.

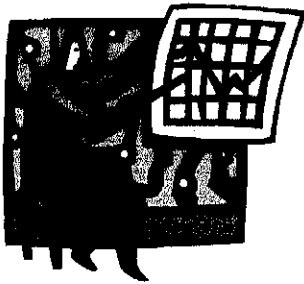
Through the Garden Gate

One of the reasons I truly love to attend the holiday dinner is just to sit and talk and laugh and talk some more with my friends. It is one of the highlights of the holiday season. But now that and all the other parties are behind us and what we must face now is taking down all our outside and inside decorations. It's tempting just to leave up the sparkling Italian lights for a few more days, but down they must come and be neatly packed away for another year. My neighbor, though Italian, never saw a Fontanini Bethlehem village before and was enthralled with it. This year I set it up on top of the bookcase in the living room. It is a reminder to me of how precious each of us is to each other. And just looking out the window at the antics of my little bird friends as they try to find a vacant feeding spot on any of the feeders, I am thinking again of how really precious life is for all of us creatures who inhabit this world we call Planet Earth.

I wish all of you a Very Happy and Health New Year!

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.



Seed packets contain Instructions on that seed's requirements: a chilling period before planting, bottom heat, gro-lights or a period of darkness. Early spring annuals are planted outside by the second week of April, after a period of hardening off. This means they must be sown a good fourteen weeks before then. Start seeds in fiber pots, trays, or cuffed newspaper pots using a soilless mix that is pre-moistened. The newspaper pots can be dug in the soil as the pots will disintegrate. Sow large seeds singly and cover them with a bit of soil. Carefully sow tiny seeds so as to not drop a lot in each pot, which makes for weak seedlings. Water from the bottom or with a mister.



Help! Help!

Have you questions about your garden, or maybe why a certain plant that you love dearly keeps dying each time you plant it, or perhaps wonder what you should do with a spot in your yard that is shady and damp? Help is as near as our membership list. Some of our members are Master Gardeners, and some are just long-time gardeners. But all are willing to help if they can. Otherwise you can call the Botanic Garden's Plant Information Service at 847.835.0972 or at their web site www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/index.html. Another place is the U. of I. Extension at 773.233.0476 or email rwolford@uiuc.edu and put "Master Gardeners" in the subject line, or go to their site at www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/hort/index.html.

The paperwhites are blooming and their fragrance fills our rooms with perfume. Lacking live blooms, hie thee to the nearest Michael's and purchase a variety of dried flowers to brighten up your rooms during these dull gray days of winter. You can also get some crocus bulbs, hyacinth bulbs, daffodil bulbs or tulip bulbs for forcing. Bring spring early into your house!

In January, remember to:

- recycle your Christmas tree branches by cutting them into 2-3' sections and placing them as protective mulch on the garden beds;
- or set the tree upright outside and fill the branches with suet, peanut butter and birdseed;
- this is a good time to prune your shrubs and small trees;
- while pruning, cut a few branches of flowering shrubs and bring them indoors for forcing blooms;
- monitor houseplants for insect damage and keep the plants away from heat registers;
- water houseplants sparingly now;
- 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' difference in day-night temperatures;
- gather the supplies for starting seeds indoors by ordering seeds as you plan your spring garden.

-with help from Garden Talk, Winter 2004

Ode to a Snowdrop

Lone flower, hemmed in
with snows, and white as
they
But hardier far, once more I
see thee bend
Thy forehead as if fearful to
offend,
Like an unbidden guest.
- William Wordsworth

Fun web sites

Try the Mailorder Gardening Association web site at www.mailordergardening.com. They have links to all sorts of stuff we gardeners like: annuals, fruit trees, herbs, etc. Gardeners Supply Co. is at www.gardeners.com for tools and supplies. And Gardens Alive at www.gardensalive.com for environmentally-friendly products for pest control, composting, attracting birds, etc.

Did you know that ... nasturtiums are native to cool South American highlands? Frost-tender nasturtiums are grown as annuals in our gardens and, because the plants contain mustard oil, the leaves and flowers may be added to salads (wash first, of course).



When choosing annuals, keep in mind the self-sowers, which is an inexpensive way to increase your plants. Some of them are:

anthem (Golden Marguerite)
calendula (pot marigold)
cleome (spider plant)
centaurea (bachelor's button)
coreopsis
cosmos
dianthus (sweet William)
digitalis (foxglove)
hesperis (dame's rocket)
lobularia (sweet alyssum)
lunaria (money plant)
nicotiana (flowering tobacco)
portulaca (moss rose)
rudbeckia (coneflower)
viola (Johnny-jump-up).

Some perennials are also prolific, such as, aquilegia (columbine) feverfew (chrysanthemum) phlox. Phlox and columbines, however, will not produce seedlings that resemble the parent plants. Phlox generally mature into magenta-flowered plants, no matter what the parent was.

Some easy to grow annuals are:

cosmos
nicotiana
nasturtium
larkspur
moss rose
verbena
phlox
calliopsis
sweet-pea
aster
stock

What's Blooming Table

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



Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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