

The Spade & The Hoe©

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July Garden Walk

The Walk this year will be different from other years. The three gardens will be open for the whole time, from 1-4 PM, so you can go to any of them at any time. Plus we will be offering for sale potted up perennials, houseplants, herbs, and annuals that have re-seeded themselves all over your garden.

Kindly label each of the pots that you donate.

The gardens are:

Brigitte Steinforth's at 2138 Robincrest Ln.
Nancy and Richard Spears' at 807 Surrey Ln.
Patricia Reed's at 1559 Elm St.

All are in Glenview.

Holly Jansen is busy coordinating the Walk this year and she has also asked for any craft items that you'd like to sell, too. Be sure to price them before donating them. Deliver plants and crafts to Holly's front porch before Friday, July 8th! Holly is at 2238 Central Rd., just east of Shermer Rd.

The June meeting was a plant exchange and herb potting session at the Tralmer's. Everyone went home with a trunk-load of plants from members' gardens. It was such fun to spend a delightful evening with friends, over a garage full of perennials and annuals. Thanks to Gloria and Len for hosting the event.

Garden Walk News

The hosts for the garden walk are:

Jackie and Shelly Kimel will be hosts at Brigitte's garden;
Jane Prentis will be host at Nancy's;
Esther Behnke will be host at Patricia's garden.

Statistics

In the month of May, 354 people accessed our website, looking at our 5 pages. The busiest days and times are Tuesdays at 10 AM, then Fridays at 7 PM and Wednesdays at 3 PM. Most were from .coms and .nets, and the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia 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
My neighbor and I have a

contest to see whose plants will set tomatoes first. This year he won with two tiny buds. I have loads of flowers on mine, so I am assured of a bumper crop this year, assuming the weather cooperates. My edible pod peas and Italian broad beans are doing very well and have fruit on them. My neighbor provides me with cucumbers, green peppers, and, made from aubergines (eggplants, to you) eggplant parmigiana! Yummy! He's an excellent cook (as all Italians are). I'll be bringing corydalis lutea and anemones to the Garden Walk, so if you didn't get any at the plant exchange, feel free to pick up some there. The roses at my new western red cedar arbor are blooming now. I have a new Blaze Improved on one side and I replanted Queen Elizabeth on the other side. She's very happy with the move and is branching out nicely. Both like lots of sun. I had transplanted a White Dawn climber and now it's 20' long and filled with 100's of blooms! Come take a look! See what a lot of sunlight can do!
Independence Day, July 4th

The Flower Family—Arum

Member of this family, or Calla, were among the earliest plants in the world! Several members have offensive odors and all grow best with moisture, heat and rich food. What we think of as the flower is really a leaf, developed to protect the true flower and lure insects. Jack-in-the-Pulpit is one. Its flowers are very tiny and crowded on the thumb, or Jack. Indians roasted its root, calling it Indian turnip. Do not eat it raw and do not eat its red berries. Elephants Ear is really the food crop taro and eaten by nearly half the world's people. Its sprouts are eaten like asparagus and the tuber like potatoes. All members of the family have tuberous roots. Green Dragon is a native of our moist woods, and looks a bit like Jack-in-the Pulpit. Its cut-leafed umbrella looks nice among ferns. Other members are Caladiums, Calla Lilies, Philodendron, Nephthytis, Chinese Evergreen, Pothos, Monstera, Sweet Flag (Acorus Calamus) and Black Calla (Arum).

Guest Columnist—Diane Meyers

Recently four killdeers hatched in my front yard from mottled white and brown eggs that blended into the mulch. Their parents did a great job of deception. In April I heard a screeching noise and saw a bird running around the flower bed. I thought it was injured as it ran away rather than flew away. A few days later, the same thing happened. This time I kept my distance and watched my 'injured' friend return to its nest, and then I saw four little eggs. Killdeers are effective ground nesters and lay their eggs in gravel, mulch, or anywhere where the eggs blend into the environment. Killdeers are fascinating birds to watch but their nesting habits can be problematic when I can't do any garden maintenance within 10 feet of their nest. Once the babies hatched right after Memorial Day, the parents widened their parameters to include the neighbor's yard and across the street! Wayne and I came home from work one day and saw one of the parents in the driveway, which was unusual, but I saw the nest was empty. Once I saw the babies running into the neighbor's yard with their parents, I maximized my gardening moments while the family was away. They returned to our front

yard frequently and also retreated to our back yard. I have not seem them for a while and I wonder if the babies are flying now, and if they have mastered the 'injured bird' routine.

In July, remember to:

- thoroughly water and mulch your beds;
- mow your lawn 2 1/2 to 3" high in hot weather;
- keep after those weeds;
- fertilize roses for the 3rd and last time at the end of July with liquid 20-20-20;
- spray Neem oil on roses to prevent black spot but do not drench the plant as it will kill it;
- spray plants with anti-rodent products if rabbits and deer are a problem;
- fertilize vegetables;
- supply even moisture to tomatoes and mulch them;
- divide irises from late July to mid August;
- divide Oriental poppies as their foliage yellows and dries;
- pinch back sedums, asters and mums until mid-July to get bushier growth.

-with help from Garden Talk, Summer 2005

The Flower Family—Spiderworts and Orchids

This family likes moisture but can get along without it. Wandering Jew is almost as content to grow in a glass of water as in a pot of soil. The family includes spiderworts (blue, white and magenta), Day-flower (Commelina), and Moses-in-the-Bulrushes (Rhoeo). Some orchids have taken their feet so far out of the water that they live in trees in the jungles. Pink and yellow Lady's Slippers, Showy Lady's Slippers, Lily-of-the-Valley, Ladies' Tresses, a pink bog orchid named Arethusa, and Showy Orchis. From these we get our house-plant orchids.

-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?

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Calendar of Events

The calendar has now been completed and the programs for the coming months are really great! In August we're having someone bring in live owls (bring your cameras) and in September we'll learn about growing orchids. October brings a fun meeting where we will pick and choose spring bulbs to order. Then November will have us all making Thanksgiving centerpieces. Our December holiday dinner is a mainstay, a chance for us to get together and enjoy each other, good food, good wines, good conversation. So mark your calendars and join in the fun!

To press flowers: in a garage, place a square of cardboard on a bench, lay a square of newspaper on top, lay a square of paper towel on top of that. Place flowers and foliage, leaving a space between each. Lay a piece of paper towel, newspaper, and cardboard on top of them. Place heavy books or rocks on top. Leave for 10 days, and do not peek!