



The Spade & The Hoe

©

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The November

Meeting will be held at the home of Joan Ruehrmund, 2745 Karen Lane, Glenview. We will be assembling Thanksgiving centerpieces under the guidance of Holly and Gloria. A small fee of \$15 will cover the cost of materials and will be collected that evening. Please call Gloria (480-0848) if you plan to attend. Thank you.

The Flower Family Album - Succulents

Because of its thick fleshy leaves, the Orpine Family is well prepared for hot, dry seasons when it will have to live upon stored moisture and food. The surest way to kill one is to give it too much water. Restrict water to 1/4 c. per week. If it needs more, it will send out little aerial rootlets. In this group are the sedums, jade plants, kalanchoes and air-plants. Old jade plants give profuse crops of simple but fragrant white flowers if you water sparingly and keep its leaves dusted.

-The Flower Family Album
By Helen Field Fischer and
Gretchen Marshberger

The October meeting was so much fun. Gloria distributed the bulbs and then presented a short program on the care and planting of bulbs. Esther and Holly donated flower seeds for members to take. Esther provided refreshments.

"...the trouble with gardening is that it does not remain an avocation. It becomes an obsession."

—Phyllis McGinley

Nomination Committee Report

President—Esther Behnke

Editor—Esther Behnke

Treasurer—Joan Ruehrmund

Programs—Gloria Tralmer

Publicity—Nancy Spears

Circulation—Jane Prentis

Garden Walk—Holly

Jansen and Dolores

Gilbertson

Hospitality—Sharon Genesse

The vote will be taken before the December dinner.

Thanks to all you volunteers, and to those who are ambivalent, please step up to the plate next year and say **'Yes!'**

Old gardeners never die.

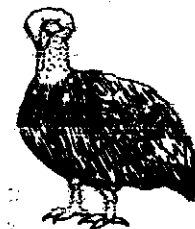
They just spade away and then throw in the trowel.

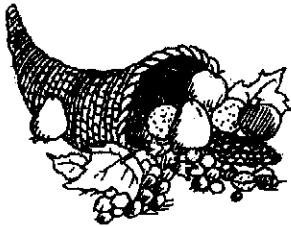
- Herbert V. Prochnow

Through the Garden Gate

This cool weather has been a boon to us for tidying up the garden before winter. Some plants have already shut down and others are still blooming their little heads off, especially phlox, datura, snapdragon, rose, alyssum, geranium, monkshood, and sedum. I like to leave some seed heads up for the birds for winter, but rudbeckia is not one of them. Off with their heads!

I have begun enlarging the front beds to accommodate the tulip and allium bulbs and chrysanthemums, though I won't be putting down bricks until next spring. It is slow going as the ground is so clayey that I have to soak it the day before I plan to work, and I don't always plan that far ahead. Things also need dividing but probably won't get done this autumn. Did you every notice how there is **SO MUCH** to do in the fall? So much more than in the spring, as least it seems so at this time of the year.





**The Flower Family—
Rosaceae**

Members of the rose family have flowers with five petals, and their stamens are in a ring around the edge of a sunken cup. Among its fruit members are apple, quince, plum, peach, strawberry, raspberry, and blackberry. Its shrub is spiraea. Weed relatives are agrimony and the yellow-flowered meadow cinquefoil, which means "five fingered". Its perennial flowers include geum and some forms of cinquefoil. Every part of the world has some sort of wild rose, called species roses, and are used for rootstock on which to graft more delicate varieties. Our garden roses belong to one of five groups: perpetuals have bloom in June on hardy old wood; teas bloom throughout the summer on new wood but are tender; ramblers have clusters of smaller flowers; rugosas make large bushes, continuous blossoms and bright seed hips; climbers don't climb but must be fastened to trellises, and some bloom on old wood and some on new.

December Holiday Dinner

Our social event of the year, the holiday dinner, will be held at Gusto Italiano Ristorante on December 8th at 6:30 P.M. We'll be able to order again from the menu and there will be a cash bar. Many, many thanks to Jane Prentis for making the arrangements. Plan to attend this delightful function.



**The Flower Family—
Saxifragaceae**

The members differ a lot. Shrubs are gooseberry, currant, mock-orange and hydrangea. Its perennial flowers are astilbe, heuchera (alum root and coral bells), leather saxifrage, Virginia saxifrage, tiarella (foam-flower), bishop-cap (miterwort) and the so-called strawberry-geranium (really saxifrage sarmentosa. This plant usually bears numerous blossoms on a slender stem sent up from a rosette of leaves. Propagate coral bells by root division.

In November, remember to:

- shred fallen leaves to small pieces and use as a mulch 2-3" deep on your beds once the ground has frozen;
- spray plants with anti-rodent products if rabbits and deer are a problem;
- water all shrubs, trees and perennials until the ground freezes as we are still in a drought;
- protect tender roses after a heavy frost; mound 12" of soil or compost at the base of the plant and prune teas to knee height;
- if deer or rabbits are a problem, wrap tree trunks with tree wrap or chicken wire, remembering that rabbits can stand on snow and reach;
- mist houseplants daily, especially orchids, and water less in winter. Do not fertilize unless the plants are blooming.

with help from Garden Talk, Fall 2005



**Guest Columnist—
Carol Tafel**

Don't relax now that summer is over. With this extreme lack of rain, we need to properly winterize our garden. Everything is stressed due to the worst drought in decades. Trees are especially in trouble with damaged roots that feed and store water. Trees and plants have sustained serious damage that could kill them in one to three years. Good care now could improve their odds. An article in the Chicago Tribune and some words from Master Gardener Wally Schmidke brought these guidelines for fighting the drought this fall. 1) Water trees first. Soak, soak, soak. Use a deep root feeder and soak long and slow so moisture sinks deeply into the soil. Place it at intervals around the root system. 2) Next, perennial beds and lawns. Again water long, slow & deeply once a week or so. A lawn does need watering during a drought. Some of us found that out when our lawns turned crispy brown this summer never to recover. 3) Split them up. Fall is a good time to divide spring/early summer blooming perennials. You'll find soil that is extremely dry when you dig below the top few inches. You need to get water down there so new roots can grow and store enough energy for the winter. In a nice cold winter, water in the soil forms a protective coat for the roots. 4) Keep weeding. 5) Cover it up. Mulch with a good organic mulch layer 2"-3" over planting beds and

root zones of trees. Water first! Shredded leaves work well. Peat moss is actually a bad mulch as it forms a water-repellent crust that takes forever to break down. 6) Let shrubs grow. Resist pruning now. Wait until they are thoroughly dormant. January/February is the best time. Evergreens may be especially vulnerable this winter, so water them well as long as possible. Wally says to use an anti-desiccant spray that prevents evergreens, rhododendrons, etc. from drying out, such as, "Wilt Proof". 7) Resist fertilizing. You don't want to encourage new growth when the plants are in survival mode. Wait until late in the year to apply a slow-releasing lawn fertilizer, so nutrients will be available for spring growth.

The Merrick Rose Garden was dedicated in 1948 honor of Clinton Merrick, a prominent attorney and alderman for 23 years. Designed originally by Ralph Melin, the city's landscape architect, it had over 1,000 roses which were selected by C. Eugene Pfister, president of the National Rose Gardens Association. Located at Lake St. and Oak Ave. in Evanston, one block east of Ridge Ave., the historic Fountain Square Centennial Fountain was relocated to the garden in 1951. In 1987 redevelopment began with a new brick outer wall, wrought iron fence and an irrigation system. Bricks were recycled from the old city streets. The fountain was refurbished at a cost of \$30,000. Garden clubs and individuals donated over \$8,800 for new plantings. In 2004 the garden contained approximately 2,000 roses and 200 varieties. The Merrick Rose Garden is an All American Rose Selections, Inc. display garden. Each year the AARS selects and donates new varieties of roses for the Garden to display the year before they are available in retail outlets. The new roses are identified, so you can pick your favorites to grow in your own garden next year.

What's Blooming Table
Please bring in your treasured plants, or blooms for all of us to admire at the November meeting. Thanks to Brigitte for her dahlias, Holly for her grasses and flamingo flower, and Esther for her monkshood and Queen Elizabeth rose.

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

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