

The Spade & The Hoe©

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The October Meeting will be held at the home of Esther Behnke, 2981 Landwehr Road, at 7:30 pm on Thursday, October 13. Gloria Tralmer will distribute the spring bulbs we had ordered and then speak on the planting requirements of the various bulbs. Plan to attend, whether or not you ordered bulbs.

The Flower Family Album - Buttercups

The buttercup family is so large. The distinctive family trait is the bunched seed head. This may be a cluster of long pods or a burry ball of hard, hooked seeds. Among them are Trollius (globe-flower), swamp and bulbous buttercups, creeping and tall buttercups (ranunculus), marsh marigolds, helleborus (Christmas rose), winter aconite, plus the anemone group also known as 'windflower'. In this group are: Pasque flower (a prairie plant), thimbleweed (also a prairie plant), hepatica, and meadow anemone.

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

The September meeting was a big success. Susan Iznstark and her assistant Laura showed a variety of orchids and spoke of their ease of care and their care requirements. They offered the orchids and repotting medium for sale. A brisk business followed.

"..the city was like snow at night, and was fragrant everywhere. The flowers were used in making perfumes and scented oils to rub on the body. Indeed everyone had the delicious scent about them..."

—Chi Ha, *Records of the Plants of southern China, 3rd century A.D.*

Buttercups in Disguise The thalictrum group consists of meadow rue, larkspur (delphinium), monkshood (aconitum), columbine (aquilegia) and love-in-a-mist (nigella) which is an annual. Finally, there are white baneberry, peony, fringed peony, autumn clematis, Jackman clematis, and all the other clematis. Would you believe this?

One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides.

- W. E. Johns

Through the Garden Gate

The wonderfully cool weather we have had recently was just great for transplanting. I was working on bringing in more white-blooming plants into the white garden. It is looking so nice, especially from an upstairs window. The roses are blooming so well. The vegetable garden has been put to sleep for the winter but plans are in the works for next spring. The datura 'Angel's Trumpets' have been prolific with blooms this fall. I can't get over how many

white trumpets I've had! I collected seeds to share with you, also seeds from cleome and false indigo, so come prepared with your little vials, bags, or envelopes.

I am enlarging the front beds to accommodate the tulip and allium bulbs, though I won't be putting down bricks until next spring. The soil there really needs amending with lots of compost, as it hasn't been touched since we moved in 36 years ago and is almost solid clay! There is a small area in the back yard that I discovered is mostly clay, too, so that will also need amending with compost. Fortunately, I have 2 compost bins going year round.

The Flower Family—Fumariaceae

Members of this family are called that from the nitrous fumes given out when it is pulled. They are easily identified by their lovely hearts swaying gracefully in plain sight. Bleeding-hearts, with its rows of dangling valentines, do well in part shade, fringed bleeding-hearts, Dutchman's breeches, Allegheny vine (which is a dainty climber), and corydalis belong to this group.

The Peppery Mustards

This family is called cruciferae, meaning 'cross bearers' because of its four-petaled flowers. It furnishes most of our hot-tasting vegetables, like water cress and radish. Its flowers are dame's rocket (*hesperis*, a biennial), stock, honesty (also called money plant, *lunaria*), wallflower (*cheiranthus*), candytuft (*iberis*), basket-of-gold (a perennial *alyssum*), sweet alyssum, rock-cress, and the most widely scattered weed after chickweed, shepherd's purse.

Monarch Butterflies

This has been a bumper year for monarchs due to the hot dry summer we've had. You see, every cloud has a silver lining. The 300 million little critters are now winging their way over the Gulf of Mexico to winter in the mountains west of Mexico City and in Southern California, a journey of more than 2,000 miles even though none of the butterflies has made the trek before.

Do you want a fragrant garden?

Plant alyssum, artemisia, butterfly bush, candytuft, chamomile, crocus, daffodil, daylily, nicotiana, freesia, geranium, scented heliotrope, honeysuckle, hyacinth, iris, jasmine, lavender, lemon balm, lemon thyme, lemon verbena, lilac mignonette, mint, moonflower, petunia, pinks, primrose, rose, sage, snowdrop, sweet pea, sweet woodruff, and violet. Not every cultivar of them is fragrant, so choose carefully.

In October, 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;

- plant spring-blooming bulbs and broadcast a bulb fertilizer over them, watering well;
 - remove frost-killed annuals immediately;
 - after a killing frost, lift and store tender bulbs like cannas, dahlias & begonias; shake off soil, cut off leaves and stems and dry for a few days before storing in an open box with shredded newspapers in a cool spot;
 - mow lawns as needed;
 - bring in the last of the tender house plants before frost.
- with help from Garden Talk, Fall 2005

Quest Columnist—Gloria Tralmer

We all know each other as gardening enthusiasts, but I'd like to reveal another side of a few of our members. Esther Behnke has exhibited her lovely quilts at Illinois Quilters Inc. shows. She is known for her baked desserts. She and Dan love to travel, especially to Italy! Dan's love of photography is combined with that of minerals, resulting in many illustrated articles on mineralogy and in several books. Dan gives slide programs at gem and mineral shows and teaches close-up photography at Columbia College using his microminerals.

Dolores Gilbertson loves to golf and is chairman of recent tournaments held at the Glenview Park District course.

Holly Jansen is a star crafter, exhibiting her dried and silk arrangements of wreaths, topiary, baskets and small Christmas trees, as well as earrings and necklaces at many local shows each fall.

Jackie and Sheldon Kimel are passionate collectors of over 700 inkwells, eyeglasses, and hatpins. A special favorite are the hatpins which they display like flowers in vases.

Patricia Reed is a talented writer and illustrator revealed in her "Nightmare on Elm" pamphlet regarding their home and garden on Elm.

Joan and Dieter Ruehrmund share their talents internationally through Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity (www.VOSH.org), distributing glasses and doing eye exams on 38 trips worldwide. In October they'll be going to India to care for people who were in the tsunami.

Brigitte Steinforth has many talents incorporated into her lovely home: painted doors, stenciled walls, decorated panels and doorways, artistic paintings, but most of all beautifully painted wood furniture, doll beds and footstools which she sells at local craft fairs. Nancy and Richard Spears own a 35' Winnebago and go on RV caravans to places like, for instance, the Gulf Coast, the northwest and Canada.

Carol Tafel, a horsewoman, is semi-retired from trail riding but grooms her Siglavy II Regina, a Lipinzzan gelding born on Tempel Farms. A member of

their Hunt Club, she volunteers in the gift shop.

Len Tralmer is a car enthusiast. He has his "Garage Queen" auto residing in its newly decorated stall complete with wall mural. He has assimilated automobile magazine articles over the past 40 years.

What's Blooming Table

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

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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